

**Watsonstown Borough
Committee Meeting
April 27, 2015**

- OPENING:** The April 27, 2015 Watsonstown Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held in Council Chambers.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Phillips, Bucky Allis, Kevin Mertz – Standard Journal, David Spotts, Barb Diehl, Sandy Hendricks, Cindy Crozier and Virginia Wirth.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION:** President Miller announced an Executive Session would follow tonight’s meeting for personnel with the possibility of returning to Public Session.
- BUCKY ALLIS – CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION:** Bucky Allis spoke on behalf of the Civil Service Commission. He said enclosed in Council’s packet was the amendment of the rules and regulations to that require patrolman to live within thirty (30) air miles of the Watsonstown Police Department.
- Bucky said on April 20, 2015, the Civil Service Commission certified an eligibility list for patrolman to expire on April 20, 2016. He went on to speak regarding the applicants; three (3) were interviewed and represent the list presented tonight. The entire process started at 8:00 AM and finished by 6:00 PM; this was something that was never done before. Bucky personally thanked Ralph Young, Chief Witherite, Sargeant Faux, Ashley Porschet, Edie, Brendi and Lisa, the Buffalo Valley Police Department and EMT’s from the Warrior Run Fire Department. Mayor Hontz thanked Bucky for his administrative plan and role in the process.
- CEMETERY:** Janet Rump said Ettingers hasn’t started working at the monument in the cemetery yet. She said there are 4 others ahead of us. The crew has been up there and the water is turned on.
- FINANCE:** Harry Hefty said the Finance Committee has been meeting and looking at proposals from different banks regarding finances and earning interest on funds the Borough holds. They are also getting proposals for electronic bill payment options. He said we are moving into the 21st century.
- INSURANCE:** Ralph Young said the insurance committee met and they are will be recommending the Borough stay with the same as we had last year for

employee health insurance. Geisinger is the carrier, the coverage will stay the same and the premiums will go up slightly. It was tabled for the next meeting.

PARKS: Janet Rump said the water is on at the park and the bathrooms are open. She said Jeff Kanezo and Curtis O'Neill from Light- Heigel have checked the handicap walkway. We have a church looking to do volunteer work at Memorial Park, that plan is being finalized.

CAMERAS: Janet said she talked with Sargeant Faux regarding the cameras at the 8th Street Park; there are problems with the lines between the park and here. The electric bucket truck may need to be utilized for those lines.

MONUMENT: Janet expressed concern; the monument footer at the 8th Street Park is loose and could fall on someone. She said it's a safety hazard that needs addressed. It is on the list and she and Edie have discussed it.

PERSONNEL: Jack Marshall said the personnel committee has met with the police department; the Chief of Police has made some recommendations. The committee has presented some of their thoughts to the police; the police department has discussed them and have come back with their thoughts. The personnel committee is meeting again on Friday, May 1, 2015 at 10:00 am regarding possible cost containment.

GUARDRAILS: The Mayor expressed concern regarding the deteriorated guardrails along Railroad Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. He said the current condition is not safe. It was confirmed that the Borough has posts out at Mr. Oakes'; Ed Netzband bought them.

LIGHT POLES: Edie said Jeff Kanezo has had a hard time getting ahold of the railroad regarding the downed poles at South Main Street. The railroad will not return phone calls. She has contact Linda Culver's office for help in this matter.

STREET SWEEPER: Dan Folk said the street sweeper is back together and being used on the streets.

PAVING LIST: Edie passed out copies of the 2015 Paving List for Council's review. The crew marked them this afternoon. She asked Council to review the list and it will be included on next Monday's agenda.

THIRD STREET PAVING: The Mayor asked Dan Folk for a review of the Third Street paving issue for the Monday's meeting.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS: There was a discussion regarding pedestrian crosswalks. Jack Marshall recommended placing pedestrian crosswalk signs in the business district,

making the town more desirable to visitors. It was concluded that between the Chief and Edie, they are to check with Penn Dot and see what can be done.

SEWER PLANT: Jack Marshall commented regarding MRSA's progress at the sewer plant.

DENNIS CONFER REFUNDED: Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to refund to Dennis Confer the \$3500.00 sewer hookup fee he was charged in 2011. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

ORGANIZATION CHART: Mayor Hontz brought the Watsontown Borough's Organizational Chart to the attention of Council. He takes exception to the "position" of the Mayor on the chart in the Employee Handbook. He is listed under the Council on the chart and he doesn't answer to the Council. The Solicitor said he would review the chart.

SAFE CONTENTS: The Mayor asked Edie if she had found pictures of the contents of the safe. She stated she had but didn't have the pictures with her; he said he would get them later.

INTERN: The Mayor introduced Ashley Porschet; she is an intern from McCann working with the police department. Chief Witherite said Ashley will be attending the police academy at Lackawanna to obtain her Act 120 in the fall.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - Chief Witherite said his department has been working with the union and the personnel committee on contract issues. They would like to hire someone as soon as possible. The police department also had some issues with jurisdictional boundaries at the elementary school. It was confirmed the elementary school was annexed into the Borough in 1962. It turned out the map was wrong; we were issued a new map, the county and 911 have changed their maps as well. There was a brief discussion regarding officers and their ability to enforce the law when they are out of the Borough. Currently the police department is not able to enforce speed details across the street from the elementary school; that is in Delaware Township. It was concluded the Mayor or the Chief could start by talking with Delaware Township about a written agreement for a proactive program across from the elementary school.

**INT'L
PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE
CODE:**

President Miller said Council met again last week; it is now with Edie and Solicitor Tira to put it all in black and white for Council's review. It is in process.

**SALT STORAGE
SHED:**

Dan Folk said he has made appointments to see salt sheds in nearby townships. It is a long process; research needs done; property lines need to be established; they have to make sure it is built out of the flood zone, etc. They are moving forward; a work in progress.

**GENERATOR –
GARAGE:**

Edie and Dan Folk said they are waiting to speak with Jim Harvilla regarding the generator at the garage.

**WEST BRANCH
CHRISTIAN
WRITERS:**

President Miller read a request from the West Branch Christian Writers to hold a one-day book festival at Memorial Park on August 29, 2015 from 9 am to 4 pm. They also requested the use of a pavilion at the park. Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty, approving their use of the park and pavilion at no charge due to their affiliation with the Montgomery House Library and their non-profit status. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**KIDS CAFÉ -
SUMMER FOOD
SERVICE
PROGRAM:**

President Miller said the Borough received a request from the Watson town Methodist Church to use the park and a pavilion for their 3rd annual summer food service program. Edie spoke regarding the fire department's use of park and pavilion during the week of June 8th. The church will use the pool house during that week for their storage. A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the church's request. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CIVIL SERVICE
RESIDENCY
RULES
AMENDED:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to change the Civil Service police residency requirement to 30 air miles. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**POLICE
CONTRACT
AMENDED:**

Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall, to accept the amendment of the police association contract. It increases the residency requirement to 30 air miles and allows 26 weeks to reside here. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

ME PUSH –

Edie said a “guest” has been put in place for the Borough’s wireless system. This was brought to light when the Red Cross was here the day of the fire and was unable to access the Borough’s WiFi.

Edie spoke regarding a recent loss of Brendi’s email. She also spoke of information she will be providing for next week’s Council packs regarding increased computer protection as offered by Me Push. Edie said, though pricey, it would protect the Borough’s utility and accounting computers, which are the “guts” of the Borough. She asked Council to review the information from Me Push for the Council Meeting on May 4, 2015.

**WATSONTOWN
GUILD - SIGNS:**

President Miller spoke regarding a recent letter sent by the Watson town Guild to replace the signs at each end of town. She asked Council to consider putting this into the budget this fall. Jack Marshall also spoke regarding the “planned” location of one of the signs. The Mayor spoke briefly regarding the current location being subject to floods versus the new location being seen by traffic. There was talk of the landscaping and a large pine tree that is encroaching the railroad that may need removed and replaced with other trees, the horse and sleigh, the size of the sign, etc.

POLICE LOGO:

Chief Witherite said a sample of the police logo may be available for the next meeting.

**BUFFALO
VALLEY
REGIONAL
POLICE –
OPEN HOUSE:**

Edie said the Borough was in receipt of an invitation to the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Open House. It is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 6 to 8 PM. If interested, she asked Council to let her know so she can R.S.V.P. by Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

MEET THE CANDIDATES: The Mayor said the American Legion is hosting a “Meet the Candidates Night” on Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 6 to 8 PM. It is being sponsored by the Montgomery House Library.

TAX COLLECTION: Becky Hontz read a notice regarding tax collection changes due to the hospitalization of Pat Yeager. It states there will be **NO** tax hours until her health improves. People may mail their taxes to Pat’s address or drop their payments into the tax box on her porch, which will be checked daily. As long as they are postmarked or dropped into the tax box by May 3rd, she intends to keep them in the discount period. She thanked everyone for their continued cooperation and understanding. The mailing address was confirmed: 214 Liberty Street.

STREET SWEEPER: Jack Marshall spoke concerning recent use of the street sweeper. He said the dirt and dust was bad and others had mentioned the same to him. He asked if the street sweeper could possibly be used on a “damp, drizzly day” to keep the dirt down. Edie said they could try it; this was the first use of the season. Others mentioned similar conditions in other towns.

SPRING CLEAN-UP: Ralph Young mentioned the crew and spring clean-up in the Borough. Edie said clean-up will continue this week. A brief discussion followed. The clean-up particulars were included in the newsletter.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: There being no further business to come before Council, Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:25 PM.

RE-CONVENE: The meeting re-convened at 8:50 PM.

RESIGNATION: A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Janet Rump to accept (Probst) the resignation of Thomas Probst effective April 9, 2015. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes
Young	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

KLOUSER: A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Ralph Young to hire Jason A. Klouser as a new police officer conditional on him passing his physical, psychology and background. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Rump	- yes
Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Harry Hefty, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer