

**Watsonstown Borough Council
Committee Meeting
November 25, 2013**

OPENING: The November 25, 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, Vice President Harry Hefty, Jack Marshall, Ralph Young, Mary Phillips, Pat Yeager, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Mayor Dave Hontz, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

VISITORS: Janet Rump, Becky Hontz, Kevin Mertz, Viola Ranck, Cindy Crozier, Liz Folk, Dan Folk, Sandy Hendricks, Tim Ranck, Ken Hollenbach Jr.

BOROUGH TRUCK/EMA: Viola Ranck of 248 East Fourth Street spoke regarding questions she had posed to Council at the last meeting. She was hoping Council was prepared to answer her questions regarding cameras around town and the use of a Borough truck to go back and forth to Montoursville. President Miller asked Viola to clarify what cameras she was talking about. Viola said Chief Derr gave information at the last meeting regarding cameras in the Borough but there were still some cameras that were purchased by the Borough and their need is in question. The Mayor began answering Viola's questions. He said he is the Borough's EMA Director and Scott Winters is the Borough's EMA Coordinator. The EMA is a state required unit that is supposed to coordinate all emergency efforts and tie them together, in the case of a catastrophic emergency i.e.: train wreck, tornado, fire, storms, floods and could also include chemical spills, railroad catastrophes which would require the evacuation of town. He said the Council reviewed the request that our coordinator have access to the truck on a 24 hour a day basis, which includes driving it to and from his residence. The vehicle is registered with the State Police, similar to our Fire Chief's vehicle that he drives to work, as a emergency response vehicle. Some of the information that only Scott and the police are privy to are emergency plans that are not public, including our elementary school and residents at the high rise, midrise, etc. At the time, all of Council voted to approve this, except Mr. Young, who was absent. The cost of the truck to the Borough is currently around 15 gallons of gas/week. Other benefits to Mr. Winters having this truck include picking up supplies from Lowes, Central Equipment, Hunter Lamison, Hite Electric, which are our suppliers in the North. Scott also uses the truck to take parts for repair. The Mayor said all of this is done on Scott's own time and only costs the Borough gas. He said in the past it was not uncommon, when people were being paid good money to perform their

jobs, people would go for parts on Borough time, which takes them away from their duties. Sometimes, more than 1 person would go on these “parts acquisition journeys”. He thought Council felt there was a savings in allowing our Emergency Management Coordinator/Street Supervisor to double-up duties. He said tonight, Scott had to stop at Best Line Equipment for chain saw parts and then to Lowes for a type of street marker for plowing snow, all on his own time. He said they went over figures today and the cost savings are in gasoline versus making a second trip, the man hours might be more than the Borough is paying Mr. Winters, yet he’s doing it for nothing, compared to 1 or 2 people in a vehicle not leaving town as much because Scott is performing those duties. The Mayor said there is a savings in EMA costs as well. If Mr. Winters were to drive his own vehicle to respond to an oil spill, which we have had several, as the Borough’s EMA coordinator, he is entitled by law to .52 cents/mile. He gave an example: in July, Ciro’s cooking oil was dumped in the alley and Scott responded in his own vehicle from vacation. The Borough was never billed for Scott’s time or his mileage. The Mayor said he thought this was a very reasonable return for our money. Harry Hefty said the Mayor was correct in Council did approve Scott’s use of the truck. The Mayor said the truck is officially an emergency response vehicle. He added, until Mr. Winters came, the Borough was not compliant with the State’s rules on emergency management. Viola asked what funds purchased the truck, were there grants. Harry Hefty and Mary Phillips both said the truck was not purchased for EMA, President Miller said it was a Borough “street truck” that is used for EMA. Viola said the truck appears as a “perk” for the Public Works Supervisor/EMA Coordinator, which is a collateral duty. Viola said she asked and was told at the last meeting that there was no compensation for the EMA Coordinator, it was a volunteer position. If the Borough is paying for gas and insurance on a truck that’s not even here and there’s an emergency and Mr. Winters lives 20 to 30 miles away, how is he going to respond to it? She said our police chief lives here in the Borough and doesn’t have a borough vehicle for his use. Harry Hefty said at one time a vehicle was provided but a previous Council voted the vehicle out. President Miller and Edie said the EMA vehicle was sold. Viola asked the purchase price of the truck and whether it was brand new, to which Council said it was a new truck and the purchase price was approx. \$29000.00. Viola said she wasn’t questioning the EMA, between she and her husband, they have had plenty of EMA training. Jack Marshall said the truck is a street truck, though the State may have designated it an emergency response vehicle, he was told it doesn’t meet the state criteria. Jack proceeded to explain the necessary components for an emergency response vehicle, according to state guidelines. He said that there are records stored in the vehicle that are confidential but he was told by the police, a truck is not a very good place to keep them anyway. A vehicle could be broken into and in hindsight; Council believes these records should be kept in the police

department. Viola asked if the storage of this information warranted a quad-cab. The Mayor said Jack Marshall was a little off base but he was entitled to that. The Mayor said for as long as he's been here, the Borough's emergency management has never been compliant. President Miller said the Borough had Jason Kling in emergency management. The



Mayor said he was not fire fighter qualified and incomplete paperwork.

Harry Hefty said he thought Scott would go in the direction of the fire company but instead he went in the direction of emergency management. At the time, the fire department needed another qualified driver and Harry was very impressed with Scott's background with the fire department. He referenced a fire response in Jersey Shore. The Mayor said Scott has brought the Borough into compliance on many levels. Harry said there is no issue, Scott has done a great job. Mary Phillips said she read in the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs that the standard response time to the scene of an emergency is within approx. 8 minutes upon receipt of call. She said we are not compliant. The Mayor said the Borough's police and fire departments have that requirement covered. The reference in the book was EMS not EMA. Mary asked the difference between EMS and EMA. Solicitor Tira explained EMS is the ambulance and fire services. EMA is the coordination of services.

CAMERAS:

President Miller asked if anyone on Council wanted to answer Viola's questions regarding the cameras. Jack Marshall said it was his understanding that the only cameras live streaming to the police department were at the 8th Street Park. Jack asked the Mayor to confirm and the Mayor deferred. Chief Derr confirmed. Jack said trail cameras are at the park, which track movement. These cameras will help prosecute vandalism. Viola asked if the cameras at the garage were live-streamed or trail cameras and whether they were viewable by anyone. The Mayor said they are not hooked up right now but they go to a recorder and the superintendent of the streets was the initial monitor of these cameras, as approved by Council some time ago. These cameras were for the security of Borough equipment. Viola asked how extensive the vandalism at the garage was to warrant the installation of security cameras. The Mayor said over time there has been careless or lackadaisical use of your tax-paid equipment and damage has occurred and Mr. Winters is quite fastidious with the equipment under his supervision. He said there's a problem when someone bashes in the backend of a 2 year old Ford pickup and of the 4 guys that work there, no one knows what happened to it. An incident relayed to him this weekend that someone pulled the dump truck in so close to a push mower that it got shoved under another piece of equipment while there was 6 feet of room on the other side of the truck. The Mayor said he wants to know what employee was driving that truck and why they didn't straighten it out or at least move the mower out from underneath the vehicle. This is the type of stuff those cameras are intended to capture. He said there has been some security issues, people coming and going

when they shouldn't be. Pat Yeager said Mr. Winters tends to get the blame for all of this but both the cameras and the truck were directives from Council. They were not Mr. Winters' actions on his own. President Miller said that is correct. Janet Rump said Viola's questions were asked at a meeting approx. a month ago, at the church and should have been on the recorder, Viola was told directly that she would get answers. Though the answers given tonight were good, Janet would hope the answers were given to Viola before tonight when the questions were asked a month ago. President Miller said she personally thought Viola wanted her answers in a public meeting. Viola said yes, she believes everyone should hear the answers to her questions. Pat Yeager said the answers were ready that night they just weren't given.

**MORAN
PROPERTIES:**

Sandra Hendricks spoke regarding the old foundry property that was purchased by Moran Industries. She understood when they property was purchased it would be used for an apartment building. She said that was the zoning law that was passed but it has been made a junk yard. Ralph Young said Moran has moved everything that was in the lot behind Rich Huff's house to the property in question on Ash Street. He thought it was possibly done because they are paving the other lot but whether Moran intends to keep the junk down on the Ash Street property, he doesn't know. Sandra said the lot on Ash Street looks permanent, a chain link fence, with barbed wire on top and it can be seen from Main Street. She said Council continues to speak of "zoning laws" yet Moran continues to spread through our area. Edie said she would have Jeff Kanezo check with Moran. President Miller said originally when Moran came to Council the property was going to be a "man camp" to be used by the people from the gas company. She said these people would basically eat and sleep there and then be gone. She said it was very preliminary when it was brought to Council and since the gas company has really slowed down and people are leaving and she doesn't know if they've totally scrapped the idea of a man camp or not. Edie said the plan was approved by the Watsontown Borough Planning Commission then approved by Northumberland County Planning Commission, lastly was approved by Watsontown Borough Council. Edie said she would call Jeff Kanezo tomorrow to look into the lot. Mayor Hontz suggested contacting Jeff Stroehman from Moran. He understood the lot off Liberty Street that Moran just paved was going to be used as a drop lot to stage trailers.

**ELECTRIC
RATES:**

Harry Hefty said he received some information from Jim Harvilla, which he provided to Council, regarding the electric rates. He said 1 mill of tax equals approx. \$15,000.00. If the Borough wanted to reduce electric rates by 1%, it would have to be shifted over to 1.7 mills in real estate taxes, 2 % reduction = 3 mills. If the Borough wanted to cut the electric rate by 10% the millage would need increased by 17 mills. The question is for a small rate decrease in electric, would the community

understand the need to increase real estate taxes. The revenue from electricity supports the town and the town would not be what it is without the revenue. As discussed before, the only way for Moran to pay towards the support of the town is through millage. Unfortunately everyone would pay an increase in millage. The tax cannot be made to go away, the tax would just be shifted, either on the electric bill or in real estate millage. An advantage to having it through millage is it would be tax deductible. Harry said 17 mils would equal a 10% rate reduction for next year and Moran would pay an extra \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 in taxes. He also said no additional revenue can be generated from electric, it is tapped out. In the future, the Borough will have to rely on millage and unfortunately millage will not bring in a lot of money. Over the next 4 years, the Borough needs to look for ways not to be so expensive. In his opinion, he doesn't think it is possible to use the philosophy of getting revenue through the power (electric), the commodity is too expensive now. Watsonstown has already tapped it higher than any other Borough that sells electricity.

**ELECTRIC
ORDINANCE:**

Pat Yeager asked about the electric ordinance that was in Council's packets. She said a lot of the information was from Jim Harvilla concerning rates for improvements. The Mayor said it's concerning what is given away and what shouldn't be given away. President Miller said it should be on the agenda for the December 3, 2013 Council Meeting.

**FUTURE
ELECTRIC
RATE
INCREASES:**

Harry Hefty said he has concluded that Council will have to pass all future increases in electric rates onto the public. He gave examples of past problems with not passing electric increases onto the public and lack of revenue to support the Borough. His point, Council will need to look at millage in future, but not this year.

**MORAN
PROPERTIES:**

Cindy Crozier spoke regarding Moran Industries. She asked if Council had thought of putting together a committee of Borough residents to meet with Moran and say "our residents are carrying you, they are carrying you on their backs". She said Moran is using our town, the residents are putting up with the trucks, the junk yards and with the big blue buildings. She said the property values in town are probably decreasing because of what we see and what is happening in our town. She said Moran should be asked to compensate the Borough of Watsonstown. She said though it may sound naive, there are other areas where there are colleges and universities that are non-profit that contribute to towns on their own to make towns better. Harry Hefty said his recommendation is "yes, it's naïve, no it's not going to work and Moran is not G.E., nor is it Bucknell". Cindy said Moran is doing everything their own way, they have so much money that they just bought another huge building. Harry said they are doing everything legally. He said our current zoning makes things very easy for Moran to do as they want. After much discussion, he encouraged

residents to get involved with the Planning Commission in 2014 to make the necessary changes to the Borough's zoning ordinances.

DEMAND METERS:

Gary Harmon spoke regarding the demand meters. He said he understood with the demand meters all businesses in town have higher electric bills. This is forcing all the businesses out of Watsontown. He asked if Council is looking ahead. He said we've got a superintendent that wants to build a new school so the Borough will lose that 'business'. Gary's point is that no new businesses will replace the businesses that are moving out of the town because of demand meters and high electric rates. Pat Yeager said Edie and Jim Harvilla met with Buzz Reynolds recently to explain how the demand meters work. Pat asked Edie to explain the demand meters to the public. Edie said the information that Buzz was given was very informative. She said the Borough is charged a demand from AMP-Ohio at different times of the day and that demand gets passed onto our businesses through their demand meters. Jim Harvilla asked Buzz how he started his equipment every day. Buzz said he starts them 1 at a time, not all at once. Edie said the highest 15 minutes of the month sets the demand for usage the entire month. Jim Harvilla said municipalities that are in the electric business use electric revenue to balance the general budget. It is not illegal and there is no problem with it and it keeps the property taxes down. Edie said this Council and Council before feel it hits everyone, not only the property owners. She said Jim said unfortunately, there's nothing that can be done with regards to the businesses and their demand meters other than understanding how the demand meters work. Pat Yeager said she thought it would be helpful if Edie explained the demand meters at a WABA meeting so our business owners understand. Edie thought we could include "electric" tips in January's newsletter to possibly help businesses and residents keep their electric bills down. Harry again mentioned electric rate reduction versus increasing millage and the affect it would have on the demand meters for Borough businesses. Gary Harmon asked if the home owners are complaining and Edie said no, just the business owners. Edie said one positive for the business demands is that the first 10 kilowatts are free, just a minimal fee.

INSURANCE ON ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT:

Pat Yeager said Council had discussed the value of Borough's electric equipment in a recent budget meeting. Because the Borough is in the electric business, there was mention of increasing the amount of insurance on the electric system. Edie said she thought Council had decided on \$3,000,000.00 and Jim Harvilla said \$10,500,000.00 was way too high. Edie was asked to check with the insurance company for a number that would cover our equipment. Jack Marshall said there has to be a formula that is used because the likelihood that something would destroy our entire electrical system is minimal. Edie said she would have the information for Council at the next meeting. The Mayor and Pat Yeager both said Edie

could check with other municipalities like Mifflinburg as they would know what their equipment is worth and what they have it insured for.

**LIBERTY &
FIRST STREETS:**

Pat Yeager said we are still waiting on estimates from the Borough's engineer regarding fixing the area between Liberty and First Streets. There was some miscommunication between our engineer and the contractor on who was actually going to do what but they do have a plan.

DECORATIONS:

Pat also wanted Council to know the Christmas decorations are going up.

**THIRD STREET
& PA AVENUE:**

Eddie spoke regarding the corners of Third Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, where the water company is working. E.K. Services sent us a quote for the installation of a pipe for \$4,100.00 and the bank restoration would be \$2,700.00 for a total of \$6,800.00. The permanent asphalt pavement restoration would be \$5.10 per square foot. Eddie said she received an email from Scott this afternoon and he has reviewed and fine with this quote. John Pick called Eddie and within the next week or so, they plan on starting. The amount of square feet couldn't be found on the quote. Eddie said Scott said the Borough is providing 46 ton of riprap. Pat said they are going to drill and put in a new storm water pipe. They are going to drill and install a new ADS pipe, to replace the one that has deteriorated, under the railroad from Third Street to Pennsylvania Avenue. The quote states, regarding the railroad bank restoration, place filter fabric on bank and place riprap over fabric. The Borough has the riprap, but we don't have the filter fabric. Ralph Young asked why the Borough was paying for the replacement of pavement if this was for the water company. Pat said the work is the replacement of the storm water pipe. Eddie said she will talk to Scott and get the square footage for the quote and have it for the next Tuesday's meeting. Pat thought it might be a good idea to get John Pick from PA American Water Company to come to the meeting so he can answer questions.

**COUNCIL
MEETING:**

Eddie reminded everyone that next week's Council Meeting is on Tuesday, December 3, 2013.

**8th & BROAD
STREETS:**

Eddie said at Robin Fisher's, the corner of 8th and Broad Streets, there has been a problem for years with water not draining properly and freezing. The storm drain is actually higher than it should be, Pat and Eddie agreed the drain inclines backwards. Scott has put together dollar amounts to repair this area with the Borough crew doing the work:

using 15" pipe, inlet, stone and blacktop - \$5060.50
using 18" pipe, inlet, stone and blacktop - \$5591.50

President Miller asked if this repair would be waiting until spring and Edie said she didn't know. Robin Fisher has had problems with this for years. It was not known if the Borough can even buy amesite anymore this year because of the temperatures. President Miller asked Edie to check with Scott and see if spring works for him. Edie said she would find out from Scott and include it next Tuesday's agenda.

MRSA UPDATE: Jack Marshall said he would call George Michael from MRSA for an update on when Milton will be taking over the entire sewer system. Edie said MRSA will take possession of the sewer as soon as the pump stations are done. They are working on 3 new pump stations that they think will be done by spring. Edie said she is working on getting the easements signed, there are a total of 5.

CEMETERY STONE: Mayor Hontz said he and Scott Winters went beyond Mifflinburg to look at the stone donated to the Borough cemetery by Cronrath family. He said the stone was delivered to the Borough last Friday, November 22nd. They had a lengthy discussion on what is required for the foundation and the procedure to install it. He and Scott are confident in their ability to have it installed properly. There is concrete and 4 inches of cement involved in the installation of the stone therefore it may be better for the Borough to wait until spring to install it, even though Gary Cronrath was hoping to have it installed this year.

CHRISTMAS DISPLAY: The Mayor said he was alerted by Mr. Winters about a broken leg on the horse of our Christmas display. Gerry Gold is the artist who designed the display so with his coaching, the Mayor spent the weekend repairing the horse and making some cosmetic fix-ups on the display. He asked if anyone knew the age of the display and Edie said it was here before she started working for the Borough. Pat Yeager thinks it has been here since 1982 or 1983. She spoke of a display that was used up at the other end of town that was vandalized so that one is no longer used. The Mayor has asked Mr. Gold to stop by and said structurally the display will be ok. The display is ready to go except for repairing a piece that goes from the sleigh to the harness that is made out of tubing. Mr. Gold made some suggestions and the Mayor said when it's taken down, he'd be willing to do the work and repaint, repair some broken solder joints and re-fresh the entire display.

BOWS ON WREATHS: Pat Yeager said the bows on the wreaths on the Borough building need refreshed too. Edie said she was going to have Bessie Bush make new ones but Mayor Hontz said Carolyn Powell would make new ones. Mayor Hontz said Mrs. Powell delivered them tonight and he doesn't think there will be a bill.

ELECTRIC SERVICE/MORAN:

Edie said it was asked at a prior meeting, which of Moran's buildings had the Borough's electric. Ralph Young thought all but the main building was on Borough electric. Edie said Ralph is correct, only the main building has PPL, all others have the Borough's electric. Ralph spoke of special lighting Moran has installed in the main building. Moran has installed LED lights along the warehouse on Ash Street and around the parking lot on Liberty Street. Pat said Moran does help within the community. Scott recently went to Jeff Stroehman and Moran hauled the Santa House and reindeer pen downtown. These may be small things, but no one knows about them either. Pat asked Harry if he had ever went to Moran and asked for a donation towards the July 4th celebration. Various discussions took place around the room. President Miller proceeded with the meeting.

INCREASE IN ELECTRIC METER DEPOSITS:

Edie said at the last meeting, a landlord suggested the electric meter deposit currently paid by renters be increased from \$150.00 to \$250.00. This was prompted because when a tenant leaves with an unpaid electric bill, the landlord must pay the bill. This change would help the property owner. President Miller said, in her opinion, it was a big jump, would \$200.00 possibly help cover the tenant's last bill. Pat suggested the Borough could accept the \$250.00 meter deposit in payments. She asked what the current procedure was. Edie said before electric is put into a tenant's name, they have to pay the \$150.00 first. It was mentioned that it costs the average tenant about \$1,200.00 to move into an apartment because of the security deposits and the deposits on all utilities. Property owners are not required to pay electric meter deposits. It was agreed electric meter deposit increases are something for Council to think about but it was decided no vote at this time.

PROPOSED 2014 BUDGET:

Edie said Council received the proposed 2014 budget in their packets. At this time, there are no increases to taxes or electric rates. The proposed budget for 2014 is \$4,229,040.00 and is ready for Council to authorize its public display. This year's budget is \$150,000.00 less than last year. An ordinance update was put into the budget for \$7,500.00 and Borough building updates were put in for \$7,500.00. She reduced Emergency Management by \$2,500.00 to allow for \$2,500.00 in Community Development, aka Greenways Project. She offered Council to make whatever changes they wanted so she could get it advertised. The Mayor said Emergency Management has always been allotted \$4,000.00 and they are within their budget this year. This year's Emergency Management figure includes an estimate for an Emergency Operations Center. Edie said the Emergency Management figure includes funds for supplies, training, uniforms, community events and operation center at the garage. The Mayor asked that the Emergency Operations Center be broken out from Emergency Management, it will be more of a Police Operations Center. He said hopefully the Borough will never need it as an

Emergency Operations Center, but the Borough will at least be prepared. Edie said it was no problem to give it its own line. The Mayor proceeded to talk regarding Community Development and the plan for a streetscape at a cost of \$650,000.00. Based on the current seed money of \$2,500.00 set aside in the proposed 2014 budget, it would take 100 years to raise \$250,000.00. He said in order to get the Borough moving in a direction to give the Borough the ability to do something down the road with a streetscape, we will not be able to do it with a “path” of \$2,500.00. Harry gave Milton as an example and how they get in-kind or matching fund grants. Edie stressed Milton is an entitlement community and Watsonstown is not. Tom Grbenick said it makes a difference in getting grant money. Ralph Young said since 1 mill of tax equals \$15,000.00, increase taxes for the Community Development account. Edie said the current tax millage is at 16.25. Harry said he and Ralph have talked and they would like to “name” the expenses the Borough currently has as tax mills, ie. Fire Tax – 2.514 mills, Library Tax .5000 mills, etc. A resident asked about the \$10,000.00 currently set aside for the fireworks. Becky Hontz suggested the community raise the funds for the fireworks, as was done in the past. People have come to the Hontz’s wanting to form a committee to fund the fireworks and if so, there is \$10,000.00 in the proposed budget that could be put to better use. Becky also said since Mayor Hontz has been re-elected, there has been a new surge of interest in the July 4th Committee. She also said she and Mayor Hontz would be willing to get involved, along with 6 other people and this may be the last year the July 4th Celebration needs to be included in the budget. Solicitor Tira said if donations are given, the money set aside for the budget money for the July 4th Celebration would be able to be used elsewhere. After much discussion and numerous changes were made to the budget, the bottom line remained the same at \$4,229,040.00. Ralph Young made a motion to advertise the 2014 proposed budget, for 10 days, as revised. Jack Marshall gave a second. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**LUTHERAN
CHURCH
DONATION:**

Harry asked Council to consider giving the Lutheran Church \$50.00 each time the church is used for public meetings. He asked Council to authorize payment of \$100.00 to the church for 2 previous uses recently. A motion was made by Harry Hefty and seconded by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried

CATV CONTRACT: Solicitor Tira said he believed Solicitor Landon passed along the CATV Contract and suggested Council review to make any changes. Edie said she would make copies for Council.

NEW ACCOUNT: Edie asked if Council was in agreement that the new account be named Community Development. All agreed.

TCC DELEGATE: Edie said she has been the TCC delegate for Earned Income Tax and Harry has been the TCC alternate. The governing body needs to re-appoint the delegate and alternate every year. Edie asked Council to re-appoint them. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month. Jack Marshall made a motion to appoint Edie as the TCC delegate and Ralph Young as the TCC Alternate. A second was given by Pat Yeager. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW TAX COLLECTOR: Edie said at the last TCC meeting, the county as a whole voted to hire Keystone Collections Group as the new Earned Income Tax Collector. They are from Irwin, Pennsylvania. They signed a 5 year contract and will collect delinquent taxes from 2012 and 2013. Their rate is also cheaper. There had been some collection problems with Berkheimer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There will be a 2 minute Executive Session following tonight's meeting for labor issues.

BUDGET: President Miller commended Council for a great job on the budget.

GREENWAYS PROJECT: Edie said she authorized the second payment of \$5,000.00 to Tom Grbenick for his work on the Greenways Project. There are a few things that need to be done yet. He will advise when the media release is set to go out. The Greenways Project will be closed out.

BOAT RAMP: The PA Fish Commission called Edie today. They came to look at the boat ramp. They have submitted the permits and are hoping for an approval. However, most permits they've submitted in the last 2 years

have been denied. If the permit is denied, they have money in the maintenance budget that they hope to use. It will be a few months until the Borough hears back. Mark Mitchell, their engineer said they need a permit when they actually go into the water.

HARRY HEFTY RESIGNATION:

Harry Hefty said he was officially resigning from Council, effective immediately. He said Dan Folk is in his Ward and Council has the ability to immediately appoint someone in my place. Pat Yeager made a motion to accept Harry Hefty's resignation with regret. Mary Phillips made a second. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

DAN FOLK APPOINTED:

President Miller asked Solicitor Tira to confirm Dan Folk can be sworn in tonight to fulfill Harry Hefty's term remaining. Solicitor Tira said Dan would serve out Harry's term through the end of the year, then be re-appointed in January to the term he was elected for. Pat Yeager made a motion to appoint Dan Folk to the remainder of Harry Hefty's term on Council. It was seconded by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Hontz swore in Dan Folk.

MARY PHILLIPS RESIGNATION:

Mary Phillips said she was officially resigning her position on Council effective immediately. President Miller said she was sad to see Mary go and appreciated all her years of service on Council. Ralph Young made a motion to accept Mary Phillips resignation with regret, a second was given by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Miller	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**HARRY HEFTY
APPOINTED:**

Pat Yeager suggested Council look into Dave Powell fulfilling Mary's remaining term on Council. Solicitor Tira said they have 30 days. Ralph Young asked if Council can make other motions for the position, to which President Miller answered "absolutely". Ralph Young made a motion to nominate Harry Hefty to the remainder of Mary Phillips term on Council effective immediately. A second was made by Jack Marshall. Pat Yeager asked what about her motion and Solicitor explained the appointment policy and procedure. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeager	- no	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes		

Motion carried by majority vote.

Brendi Brooke, Borough Secretary swore in Harry Hefty.

CANAL BOAT:

Pat Yeager asked if the Canal Boat has been officially handed over to the Borough yet. Edie said she heard from Bob Stoudt, who heard from Light-Heigel and it has been turned over to the Borough. She will provide Council the official date at the Council Meeting on Tuesday.

911 CENTER:

Pat also asked when we will hear on the 911 Center staying in Lewisburg. Chief Derr said they are still working on it and we probably won't hear anything on it until June or July.

**CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM:**

Pat also asked Chief Derr how the Christmas program was progressing, to which Chief Derr said "very well". He is still asking for donations.

**PICNIC
TABLES:**

Ralph Young asked whether the picnic tables were going to be left at the Canal Boat for the winter. Edie said Council just took possession of the Canal Boat.

**SOLICITOR'S
INVOICE:**

Viola Ranck questioned the Solicitor's bill. She referenced the cash position report, budget versus actual expenses. Solicitor Tira said he believed the estimate was \$54,000.00 for the year and actual expense so far this year is \$38,000.00. Viola said she was demanding answers other than being told "personnel". She said the public has the right to know what their tax dollars are paying for. She said if there are "personnel" problems within the Borough, Council better get them corrected.

**CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT:**

Mayor Hontz spoke regarding the confidential report regarding the “personnel” issue that continues to be in question. He is continuing to ask for an Executive Session to review and discuss the findings of the confidential report, that all of Council was given and signed for. He said \$15,700.00 blown. Solicitor Tira cautioned Mayor Hontz as to what he was saying.

**ADJOURN TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

There being no more business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer