

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
September 2, 2014**

OPENING: The September 2, 2014 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held at the First Lutheran Church, 400 Main Street Watsonstown. Pastor James Ritter gave the opening prayer and the Pledge to the American Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Mayor Dave Hontz, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Acting Police Chief Richard Faux and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Phillips, Buzz Reynolds, Judy Marshall, Jim Ritter, Diane Dawson Kevin Mertz, Vera Young, Dave Powell, Bob Frey, William West, Liz Folk, Sandy Hendricks, Cindy Crozier, Judy Bergman, Monika Powell, Virginia Wirth, Terry Kirchner, Viola Ranck and Roxanne Foresman.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk, to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on August 4, 2014 and the Committee Meeting on August 25, 2014. 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.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the bills & transfers for the month of August 2014 in the amount of \$274,807.17.

POLICE OVERTIME INCREASE: Janet Rump asked for clarification on the recent increase in police overtime. Acting Police Chief Faux said the officers are covering shifts for vacations thus increasing overtime. He said Chief Derr was on vacation and day shifts needed to be covered. Janet asked if he saw overtime going down or continuing to climb; to which he certainly hopes it will decrease. Acting Chief Faux said if Council chooses to hire an additional officer, bringing the department back to 5 full time officers, overtime will go back down to more within the guidelines as allowed by the contract. He said bringing on 2 additional part-timers will certainly have an impact on overtime.

A roll call vote regarding the bills & transfers was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PART-TIME
POLICE
OFFICERS:**

President Miller said she hopes part-timers are utilized as much as possible. Acting Police Chief Faux said “the full time officers have the right to take 24 hours, each officer, but in absence of that we do use the part-timers as much as we can; bringing on 2 more will certainly benefit that as well”.

**DIANE
DAWSON -
(Butterfly Garden):**

Diane Dawson reported to Council she deposited \$75.00 from her Butterfly Garden; which will benefit the Sharon Budd family. She mentioned other days that her garden could be available and possible future events.

**UNION COUNTY
911 CALL
CENTER:**

Diane asked if Council had any information regarding the Union County 911 Call Center. President Miller asked Mayor Hontz or Acting Chief Faux if they had any more information than what is in the newspaper and on Facebook. The Mayor said other than what he has read in the newspaper, he’d have to check with Mark Burrows. Harry Hefty said it is up to the County Commissioners and what they decide to do. Acting Chief Faux said he knows Mark Burrows has been more involved in it than the police side has. He said as far as he knows there has not been a push to get together and approach the Northumberland County Commissioners. President Miller said Mark Burrows is probably much more aware than “we” are and told Diane she may want to talk with him. President Miller thanked Diane for bringing the issue to Council’s attention.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

President Miller announced an Executive Session following tonight’s meeting for possible litigation and personnel. Council may or may not be going back into a public session.

THANK YOU:

Edie said the Borough was in receipt of a thank you from the First Presbyterian Church for the use of the picnic pavilion at the park. It is one of the highlights of their church year.

BOAT RAMP:

Edie said she talked with Mr. Mitchell regarding the boat ramp. He is going to get back in touch with Edie but it looks like it will be July of 2015 before they come. They have determined the boat ramp is the Fish and Boat Commission’s to fix.

**ELM STREET
CATCH BASINS:**

Edie said she and the Street Committee looked at the catch basins on Elm Street. Dan Folk said they are in worse shape than originally thought. He said the Borough's engineer needs to take a look at them. Dan gave examples of some of the problems; these areas will take more than patching to fix them. President Miller said it should be budgeted for next year.

**TURBOTVILLE
LANDSCAPE:**

Edie said Turbotville Landscape will hopefully be here this week to trim trees at the south end of town and give us an estimate on finishing the landscaping at the Canal Boat. Cindy Crozier asked if the Greenway Committee could be included in a meeting with Turbotville Landscape regarding the Canal Boat landscaping. Edie said she would let the committee know when it will be.

**ARTICULATING
BOOM:**

Edie provided Council with quotes from Rovendale Supply and Valley Ag & Turf for the articulating boom. Edie said Ryan Tira wanted to make sure what was under the state contract and what wasn't. Jack Marshall asked where the money was coming for the articulating boom. Edie said it could be split between the cemetery and parks. She said she hadn't divided anything out because she didn't know what parts of the tractor, mower and boom that Council was interested in. Edie confirmed for Jack that there is money to pay it especially if they just go with the boom. The boom can be hooked onto the John Deere tractor we have now. Edie said not everything is under the state contract so Council needs to ask Solicitor Tira how the bidding goes; it is not all a package deal. She said Rovendale's assured her that the articulating boom can be attached to our John Deere tractor.

Jack Marshall spoke regarding the possible use of gasoline powered 12 foot long poles. He said he has one that is a chain saw but they can be purchased with a reciprocating sickle bar. He said it does require manual labor but it will save a lot of time compared to trying to maneuver the tractor. He said you can go out to the edge of the river bank and sweep right along it. Jack said he's not 100% convinced there's a need for an articulating boom. Additional comments were made; Jack spoke of a few places where such "poles" could be bought, including C.H. Waltz. Edie said she would look into getting a demonstration set up. President Miller said the articulating boom was to be put on hold until they get more information.

**STREET
OPENING
ORDINANCE:**

Edie said the street openings on Third Street, as previously discussed were under the old street opening ordinance. The newest street opening ordinance was approved on June 26, 2013. Solicitor Tira said the areas need marked and the water company needs to be contacted regarding the repairs.

ELECTRIC AT THE CANAL BOAT:

A resident asked when the electric would be installed at the Canal Boat Pavilion. Edie said Jim Harvilla has been extremely busy. He is the Borough's electric engineer; he is to give us an estimate. Edie said she doesn't have it yet but will try and contact him again.

STORM DRAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Edie said Pat Ward from Uni-Tec will be in contact with her to set up a meeting regarding the Storm Water Management Plan that Council approved.

STREET SWEEPER STATUS:

The Mayor asked for a status on the street sweeper. Edie said it was last used in July and it was bound up and put more dirt out onto the streets. It was eventually unclogged and they used it but it is in need of repair. Some things were replaced in the spring but we were finding it difficult to find replacement parts. Dan Folk said we are waiting until winter to do the repairs if we can get the parts. Jack Marshall said he understood a lot of what was needed for the repairs involved sheet metal. He mentioned businesses in Williamsport and South Williamsport that work with sheet metal and have the ability to make just about any part needed. Edie said a new street sweeper has not been priced. The Mayor said if the only thing needed for our sweeper is an elevator, we should check with a machine shop.

1990 GMC BUCKET TRUCK:

Edie said the 1990 GMC bucket truck had been on Municibid and the highest bid was \$5,900.00. Edie said Municibid suggested putting a \$8,000.00 reserve on it. She said we can accept the \$5,900.00 tonight by check or money order, as stated in the ad. Jack Marshall asked if the bid is accepted, where the money would go; to which Edie said the Electric Fund. Jack asked if he could suggest putting the money into an escrow account that could be used to repair the street sweeper. Solicitor Tira said it could be done. Harry Hefty made a motion to accept the bid of \$5,900.00 for the 1990 GMC bucket truck. A second was given by Janet Rump. 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.

STREET SWEEPER CAPITAL ACCOUNT:

Jack Marshall made a motion to transfer the money from the sale of the bucket truck to a capital account for the street sweeper. Ralph Young gave a second. 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.

**PPL
JOINT
SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT:**

Solicitor Tira said earlier in the spring, Council approved a settlement agreement with PPL related to litigation as before the Federal Energy Regulation Commission. There were some slight changes made to the agreement and it needs reapproved. He said there was no change to the subsequent terms regarding the Borough. A motion to approve the joint offer of settlement with PPL was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PROTECTION
OF PERSONS
& PROPERTY
COMMITTEE:**

The Mayor said he was happy to report that for the first time in almost 6 years the Committee for Protection of Persons and Property is beginning to view items that may or may not need attention. They will be meeting this week and come up with a list to present to Council regarding safety and the protection of persons.

**POLICE
DEPARTMENT:**

written

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:**

none

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

none

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

**BOROUGH
SOLICITOR:**

none

**BOROUGH
MANAGER:**

written

**BOROUGH
SECRETARY:**

none

**TANNERY
RUN –
MATTHEW
STREET:**

Jack Marshall said he was up to see Tannery Run on Matthew Street. The Mayor spoke of his understanding when he met with the gentleman from the Conservation District regarding the sandbar. (The air conditioning was running and the conversation on the other side of the room was inaudible. Numerous conversations were taking place at the same time.)

**BOB FREY
DISPOSAL:**

Bob Frey provided Council with a copy of a letter that is being sent to a few Borough residents that are using 64 gallon totes. He said his contract provides back door garbage collection of one 33 gallon container twice per week. The larger containers are too heavy and are difficult to empty. Bob wanted Council to know before he sent the letters. Bob doesn't need Council's approval as long as it's according to the Borough contract. He asked what he should say if someone asks "what gives you the right to send this letter to me requesting the down size of our containers" to which President Miller said "the Borough contract".

**ADJOURN
TO
EXECUTIVE:**

There being no further business to come before Council, Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn to an Executive Session at 8:00 pm.

**REOPEN TO
PUBLIC:**

The public meeting was called back to order at 8:55 pm. After the meeting was called back to order; a motion was made as follows:

**SEARCH FOR
CHIEF OF
POLICE:**

A motion was made by Janet Rump to authorize the Personnel Committee to start a search for a new Chief of Police and authorizing them to spend up to \$4,000 to contract with an outside consultant to assist with the search. The motion was seconded by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was held and the motion passed 6 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer