

**Watson town Borough
Council Meeting
February 3, 2014**

OPENING: The February 3, 2014 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. Jack Marshall 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, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

OTHERS PRESENT: Buzz Reynolds, Sandy Hendricks, Mary Phillips, Cindy Crozier, Rene Toro, Orlando Toro, Karen Bottorf, Ken Hollenbach Jr., Kevin Mertz, Hal Crozier, William West, Liz Folk, William Michael, Jim Ranck, Carolyn Powell, Dave Powell, Ellen Cook, Viola Ranck, Dale Chomas, Bob Frey and Max Foust.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: Harry Hefty made a motion to approve the January 6, 2014 Council Meeting minutes and the January 27, 2014 Committee Meeting minutes. A second was given by Ralph Young. 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 Janet Rump to approve the bills and transfers in the amount of \$291,345.55. 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.

**DELAWARE
TOWNSHIP -
CHANGE
ORDER #7
FROM HRG:**

Jim Ranck spoke of Change Order #7 from HRG. He referenced paperwork provided to Solicitor Tira from Kevin Nelson. It pertains to \$668.00 in extra milling and paving, which was requested by Scott Winters, per Jim Ranck. This was beyond the scope of work listed on the contract. The change order was also in regards to \$3,500.00 for damage to an unmarked/un-named alley (PA One Call), which was fixed by Doli. After much discussion regarding both issues, Harry Hefty made a motion to pay Change Order #7 to Delaware Township in the amount of \$4,160.32. A second was given by Dan Folk. 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.

**WELCOME TO
WATSONTOWN
SIGNS:**

Ellen Cook spoke on behalf of the Watsonstown Guild. The Guild asked permission to get quotes and have drafts designed to replace the “Welcome to Watsonstown” signs at both ends of town. She also asked if the Borough will consider helping with the installation of the new signs and disposal of the old signs. President Miller said the crew would help the Guild. Ellen said with Council’s approval, the Guild would begin fund raising for the project. She also mentioned the possibility of a sign coming in on 8th Street. President Miller suggested she contact Edie regarding sign dimensions. They would have to contact private land owners for a location on 8th Street. After much discussion, Harry Hefty made a motion to allow the Watsonstown Guild to move forward in their plan to replace the “Welcome to Watsonstown” signs and the Borough crew to help with the installation of the new sign and disposal of the old sign. 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.

**GREENWAYS
PROJECT:**

Dale Chomas spoke on behalf of the Planning Commission. He said he is again the Chair person for the Planning Commission. DCNR wants to talk with Watsonstown about pursuing the Greenways Project. They are looking to help Watsonstown with Grant writing and it is beyond the scope of the Planning Commission. Dale asked Council how they wanted the Planning Commission to proceed with DCNR. He personally thinks it would be better for DCNR to speak with Council. Max Foust has spoken

to Wes Farringer, a grant writer for DCNR. He and Tom Grbenick are willing to meet with whomever necessary to get the grant writing process started. Dale and Max asked for Council's guidance to proceed. No one on the Planning Commission has grant writing experience. They thought possibly someone in the Borough would be available and capable of grant writing. Barb Pick said help is available at Bucknell to aid in the grant writing process as well. Jack Marshall said there is \$5,000.00 in this year's budget for the Greenway project. President Miller said it would be great if Wes Farringer could come to the Committee Meeting on February 24, 2014. She said if Wes is unavailable that evening, he could possibly meet with Edie and the Parks Committee at a different time.

**KAREN
BOTTORF –
ELECTRIC:**

Karen Bottorf, a local business owner said she hadn't been able to attend recent meetings regarding the electric rates in the Borough. She said she has spoken to Edie numerous times over the years about the electric; how it's broken down and how it works. She said she has done some rate comparisons with other companies regarding deregulation. She said she is probably on the low end of users in the Borough compared to Rene's, Buzz's and Lingles. She said if she had the ability to purchase power from other suppliers, she could save 28% to 42% on her business electric bill. She said on her PPL electric bill at home, the charges are broken out. She said the Borough electric bill is not broken out and asked whether that was going to be changed sometime in the near future. Edie said the Borough has worked with its utility software company and as of now, they say they are working on it, but nothing has been seen yet. Karen asked if the Borough has looked into selling its lines and poles to PPL and get out of the electric business and give people the opportunity to choose. President Miller said electric is what pays the Borough's bills. Karen asked what real estate taxes are paying. She said electric should only be paying for those things associated with electric. President Miller said the Borough's electric pays for all things associated with electric but it also helps pay for other expenses. Solicitor Tira said he understood it would take a 52% increase in millage to equal the revenue generated by Borough electric. President Miller said generating revenue through electric spreads it over everyone instead of just homeowners. Harry Hefty spoke regarding future electric rate increases and millage increases. Karen asked how communities like Milton and Montgomery do business without having their own electric systems. Solicitor Tira said per the electrical engineer, for every dollar of electric revenue .545 cents goes to buy electric, .144 cents goes towards the upkeep of the system and .311 cents gets transferred to the General Fund to pay non-electric expenses. Per the electric engineer, to replace the amount that is being transferred each year to the General Fund, it would take 52.9 mills of additional tax. After much discussion regarding various electric rate concerns and issues, Council may consider the "revenue neutral" program as previously discussed.

FIRST STREET CURB:

Dan Folk, head of the Streets Committee said he had nothing new to report at this time.

GREENWAYS PROJECT:

Sandy Hendricks asked if the Greenways Project was part of the Borough's old or new business. She also asked if Council had established a committee for the project. President Miller advised the Planning Commission will be working with DCNR to see about getting some grants and Council will also utilize the Parks Committee. Once the Borough obtains some grant money, then Council will move forward.

MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTER:

Janet Rump advised the Watsontown Memorial Community Center's annual meeting that's being held on Monday, February 24, 2014 is the same night as the Borough's Committee Meeting. Janet said she would call Allen Neyhard to see if the meeting can be changed.

WABA - MOVIES IN THE PARK & 4th of JULY PARADE:

Harry Hefty made a motion to approve WABA's Movies in the Park and the 4th of July Parade. A second was given by Jack Marshall. 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.

4th of JULY CELEBRATION IN THE PARK:

Harry Hefty suggested the 4th of July Committee act as the "coordinator of the festivities" and leave the insurance, liabilities and funds to Borough. Edie said she checked and the insurance liability for the celebration at the Park will be the Borough's responsibility. Insurance coverage for the parade will be WABA's responsibility, as always. Harry Hefty made a motion to have the 4th of July Committee coordinate the celebration for the Borough of Watsontown. A second was given by Janet Rump. 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.

CHINESE LANTERNS:

Council and residents had further discussion regarding the Chinese lanterns that were released during the 4th of July fireworks last year. Solicitor Tira advised Council President Miller asked Council their opinions on passing an ordinance to ban Chinese lanterns in the Borough. Harry Hefty wants to ban because he's read they are a fire hazard. Edie also reminded Council of the debris they leave behind (wires). Dan Folk

said he wanted to look into the matter further, Jack Marshall agreed. Others had no comment. Dan agreed to provide Council with more information at the Committee Meeting on February 24, 2014, at which point Council will direct Solicitor Tira on proceeding with a possible ordinance. President Miller said an announcement would be put in the newsletter advising the public of Council's decision.

**GARAGE
ROOF:**

Eddie provided Council with garage roof repair specs last week. Eddie asked Council's permission to advertise the roof repair with bids due on March 31, 2014. Dan Folk made a motion to advertise, seconded by Ralph Young. 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.

**JES-VIC
5K RACE:**

Jack Marshall made a motion to approve the Jes-Vic Race to be held on June 7, 2014. A second was given by Janet Rump. 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.

**ELECTROLUX
SWEEPER:**

Eddie said Dave Ferguson brought in an Electrolux sweeper for the office and cleaning lady to try. The price of the machine is \$800.00. He had nothing cheaper and had no re-conditioned machines. Sandy Hendricks mentioned Chatham's Vacuums on Market Street in Lewisburg. Eddie said she would look into a different sweeper.

**FIREMAN'S
CARNIVAL:**

Eddie said she was in receipt of a request from the Warrior Run Fire Department to hold its annual carnival from June 9th through June 14th. They also asked permission to use the Park from Tuesday, June 3rd until Wednesday, June 18th to set up and tear down. Lastly, they've asked for an extension of the curfew, which is generally no later than midnight. A motion was made by Janet Rump to approve the fire department's request, seconded by Dan Folk. 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.

**HIGHWAY
AID C.D.'s –
LIQUID FUELS
ACCOUNT:**

Edie spoke regarding the 2 Highway Aid C.D.'s at Muncy Bank & Trust. These C.D.'s are regarding the Borough's liquid fuels account. They are each in the amount of \$51056.88 and are coming due. Edie said the rate of interest for both 12 and 18 months is .35%. At West Milton State Bank, the 12 month interest rate is .35% and the 24 month interest rate is .50%. The maturity on the C.D.'s is February 9, 2014 so a decision needs made. Council agreed to put the money into a savings account for the time being.

MORAN:

Cindy Crozier asked for a status update on Moran. Edie said Jeff Kanezo has met with Moran Industries and Solicitor Tira. Jeff Kanezo released another letter this week letting them know the equipment sitting on the Ash Street lots does not conform to Borough Code, therefore, it cannot remain. He also said the fence has to be brought into compliance with Borough Code as well. Moran has been given a time frame in which to respond and the Borough's Code Officer is handling it.

**POLICE
DEPARTMENT:**

written

**FIRE and
AMBULANCE:**

none

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

written

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

SOLICITOR:

nothing

**BOROUGH
MANAGER:**

written

PUBLIC WORKS:

written

**BOROUGH
SECRETARY:**

none

**INSURANCE
LIABILITY –
BOROUGH
TRUCK:**

Viola Ranck said Council's concern with liability for Chinese Lanterns yet no concern for liability of a Borough truck being driven 60 miles per day back and forth to Montoursville. President Miller said the issue is being addressed with the Insurance Committee. Janet Rump said the Insurance Committee met with Gloria Buhl on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Janet said the Borough has \$4,000,000.00 in liability coverage however it

does increase the Borough's chances of having a liability situation. Viola asked if Council was willing to reverse their initial vote and bring the truck back for exclusive Borough use. It not only opens the liability to this town but the town also buys the gas for that vehicle. She said the fuel is in excess of \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 annually for that truck to be driven to Montoursville on a daily basis. Viola said she has no such benefits with her job. She said she is done being put off and done asking questions. She wants to know when the truck is being returned to the Borough. President Miller apologized if Viola felt she was being put off. President Miller thought the Insurance Committee would make a recommendation, but possibly they are not ready to make a recommendation yet. Viola said if that truck is in an accident on the way to Montoursville or on the way to Watsontown, this town will be paying the price. Solicitor Tira said the liability is the same, whether it's driven in the Borough or out of the Borough. Viola said it's someone driving a truck that belongs to this Borough after hours and off the clock. Solicitor Tira said "he" is salaried so there is no on and off the clock. Viola said this town had better start asking questions because it's being opened up to needless liabilities. It was clarified that the truck was not a part of "his" employment contract.

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS: Dave Powell asked if there was anything in the Borough's ordinance requiring the Borough's administrative employees to live within the Borough. He feels going forward key administrative employees should be made to live in the Borough. Solicitor Tira said residency requirements are set by Council.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before Council, Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

FUTURE OF THE BOROUGH: Carolyn Powell asked if the Borough's future is grant writing. She asked if this was the plan, who is going to do the grant writing and how will the Borough proceed with the grant writing. Carolyn said it is not an easy process and she doesn't think the Borough cannot afford a professional grant writer. She said it is very time consuming and the money doesn't come quickly. President Miller said it will be part of the Borough's future but not the only future for the Borough.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer