

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
April 7, 2014**

OPENING: The April 7, 2014 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Harriet 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, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

OTHERS PRESENT: Buzz Reynolds, Judy Marshall, Mary Phillips, A. Wislock, Liz Folk, David Plotts, Pastor James Ritter, Vera Young, Bucky Allis, William West, Barb Pick, John Pick, Rene Toro, Virginia Wirth, Lake Randall, Cory Laubach, Sarah Laubach, Lennie Sherlinski, Logan Sherlinski, Barb Diehl, Cindy Crozier and Bob Frey.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: The Mayor asked for clarification of John and Lacy Hefty's donation of this year's fireworks to the Borough of Watsonstown. Harry Hefty made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on March 3, 2014 and the Committee Meeting on March 31, 2014. A second was given by Dan Folk. 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 Janet Rump, seconded by Jack Marshall to approve the bills and transfers in the amount of \$282,893.64. 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.

**LAKE RANDALL
OF MID PENN
ENGINEERING-
ELK HOMES-
LENNIE
SHERLINSKI:**

Lake Randall of Mid Penn Engineering spoke regarding his representation of Lennie Sherlinski and Elk Homes. He passed out drawings for Council to review. They have recently met with the Planning Commission and devised plans to address various concerns. Mr. Randall said before they move forward with the design of the property, they wanted bring these concerns before Council. They have received capacity letters from Pennsylvania American Water Company and Milton Regional Sewer Authority. They have contacted the Soil Conservation District and DEP is quite satisfied with their current storm water plan. Mr. Randall proceeded to further explain the drawings provided to Council. The property is the former Garth Watson property that has been subdivided. Access to the “new properties” will be through Phase 1 of the existing Elk Homes properties. Mark Burrows has reviewed the entrance and exit of the property for emergency vehicles and they have provided Mark with turning templates, which show accessibility. They are pretty confident that they can come back with a design that meets all safety requirements. Jack Marshall mentioned two issues of concern, rain water and parking during snow plowing, of which Lennie Sherlinski and Lake Randall addressed. Lennie confirmed the new properties are the same two story design as his existing townhouses. A resident asked if electrical service was going to be upgraded or if the properties would just be added without the Borough upgrading the service. Lake Randall said they haven’t approached the Borough about how they want to service the new properties but it will be put on the list of concerns and resolved. The timeline for the start of construction is this summer, though the entire project will be done in phases. Lennie said he thinks the first six townhouses will be completed by fall, then depending on the weather, possibly the next six will be completed. The final six will be completed in 2015. There was discussion regarding right of ways and the impact of the additional traffic on Borough streets. They have a letter from Uni-Tec reviewing the plan, which is available for Council’s review. Lennie said he and his wife are willing to invest 1.5 million dollars into this project but no more. He said if they are forced into lots of things that make the project cost-prohibitive, they won’t invest the money. That is why he wanted to get together tonight with Council and get a consensus before he increases all the soft costs. He said if this plan isn’t going to work, he wants to get it out now. They will be meeting with the Planning Committee and have additional information for the April 28th Committee Meeting.

**4th of JULY
COMMITTEE:**

Barb Diehl spoke on behalf of the 4th of July Committee. She said the Committee is looking to have a car show in the park that day. She asked if the corner of Matchum and Main Street could be roped off so that those cars that participate in the parade can turn off Main Street onto Matchum Street and proceed down into the park. Harry suggested the Committee should work closely with the police on numerous things

including blocking off streets, crowd control and the ban of Chinese lanterns. Barb spoke of possible military personnel helping as well. Chief Derr said the police can put up road barriers to block the corner of Matchum and Main Streets. Rene Toro said the committee would put the request in writing. Chief Derr said the police department will work on a plan to control traffic. Barb asked if the Borough could street sweep the area, to which Edie said yes. Barb said the Committee has entertainment booked from just after the parade on into the evening. She asked if the stage and power poles from the carnival will remain available for their use. Harry said the power poles remain but the stage is in need of repair due to a leaking roof. He said the fire company owns the stage but the community uses it half the time. They need to speak with the fire company regarding its use and the possible repairs. Barb said there are tables in the old pool building. She asked who she needed to talk to for access. Edie said Barb should contact her and she would get her a key. The Borough will provide a dumpster and garbage cans, as well as the crew will help set up and clean up the park. Rene said the Committee is planning on doing the Duck Derby again this year. In the past, she said they have had the Borough crew clear part of the river bank. She asked if it was still possible, to which Edie said yes, just let the Borough know. Lastly Rene said she has been in contact with Mike from Hot Shotz about roping off the boat ramp, as well as roping off the opposite side of the road. The Committee will contact the Fish and Boat Commission for permission. Virginia Wirth asked about the repairs to the stage to which Harry Hefty answered. Bucky Allis asked Harry to speak louder and more clearly so everyone could hear.

**LEGAL FEES/
LAW SUITS:**

Cindy Crozier said she is discouraged by the amount of money the Borough is paying out each month in legal fees. She mentioned the amounts paid in February and March of this year and said she knows we have turmoil in this Borough, but now we have lawsuits. She asked where the money is coming from. She cannot imagine the Borough can continue paying month after month after month. She asked if Council predicts these types of legal expenses to continue in the future. President Miller said “we don’t know”. Cindy asked if there was something that could be done to bring people together and repair things. She said she is “really frustrated”.

**MOVIES &
MUSIC IN THE
PARK:**

Barb Diehl asked if the Movies & Music in the Park could be included in the newsletter. The first of the season will be held on May 16th, with McNett Country scheduled to start at 6:30 p.m. Barb was told to contact Ken Hollenbach regarding required Emergency Management Forms.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

President Miller stated an Executive Session would follow tonight’s meeting for labor and litigation.

**THANK YOU
FROM THE
WATSONTOWN
GUILD:**

Edie read a thank you card from the Watsontown Guild to the Borough crew for removing the debris from their memorial site at Main and Brimmer and also from the lower end of town. Edie said she would see the crew gets the card.

**MAYOR'S
MAILBOX:**

The Mayor stated he no longer has access to his mailbox, as the locks were changed and his key no longer fits the office. President Miller said "nor does any of ours". The Mayor said he has a problem because that is the only office he has and he was wondering why he was denied access. Edie said that was a decision of Council and no one has a key, everyone can get through the front door to the Council room but that's it. The Mayor was precipitated the change, to which Edie said the locks were changed when Scott left. She asked Council and they decided no one would have a key. She stated she had nothing to do with the police side. The Mayor asked for a key so he can access his mailbox when it's not disruptive to Edie and her office staff. President Miller asked if he's been refused his mail, to which the Mayor said he has had mail forwarded to him and he didn't appreciate the condition it was in when he got it. He doesn't think it's necessary to spend \$1.85 to send a letter from 4th Street to Ash Street when he could simply walk in and get it at his convenience. He would like to know the reason he's been locked out of the police department, locked out of the Borough office and been denied legal counsel. He asked "what's the story?" After a brief moment of silence, he stated "that's the answer you're going to get folks". "I can't even go to Executive Sessions anymore". A resident called out "you are an elected official". The Mayor stated he's being treated like an employee that's about to be fired. Solicitor Tira said with regards to being denied legal counsel, at the last meeting he had advised the Mayor that he's entitled to separate legal counsel with issues that are in conflict with Borough Council and that information has been provided to the Mayor.

**1ST STREET
CURB:**

Edie said last week's packet included a memo from her along with information from Pat Ward. The Street Committee, (Dan, Ralph and Harry) along with Dale Stahl, Greg Brouse and Edie went to look at the 1st Street curb, which has been in question for a long time. Pat Ward made a recommendation, which was given to Council last fall and again last week. Council needs to decide (on the recommendation of the Street Committee) to lower the curb to 3" which was recommended by Pat Ward. G&R Charles has done all the work they are going to do and they have been paid. Edie said Council needs to decide if they want to get prices to correct the curb and we're not ready to move ahead until Council receives the recommendation from the Street Committee, then they are to advise her how to proceed for pricing. Dan Folk said the Street Committee is not ready to make a recommendation at this time. President Miller said the curb would be put on the agenda for next month.

MORAN: Solicitor Tira said he spoke with the Code Officer and a citation is going to be issued for the use of the property as it is.

**GREENWAYS:
PROJECT:** Edie said she listened to last week's meeting on tape and there was a lot of discussion about the Greenways Project. She said though the Borough budgeted for the project, Council had not given her the go ahead to do anything. She has spoken with Wes Farringer, Tom Grbenick and Chuck Beck several times this week. Wes Farringer from DCNR had met with Max Foust in the Borough office and the deadline to apply for the grant is April 16, 2014. This grant process will take 6 months to prepare. Wes also said it would take a lot of involvement from the community, including decisions by the property owners. Wes said there's no way to get a competitive application turned in by April 16th, Tom Grbenick told her the same thing. Both men are willing to start working with us. Edie said she and Janet will be attending a grant writing workshop. She is more than willing to start to move ahead with the Greenways Project if it's Council's wish. The grants are matching funds so Council will need to make a determination and the money must be available when we apply for the grant. \$5,000.00 is in the budget. Edie said Pastor Ritter spoke to her about designing an area down around the bridge and Canal Boat and possibly honor students or boy scouts could work on the project. Though not big or grand, it would be a start and use of the \$5,000.00 seed money. She said Wes told her sometime this summer they need to get started and Council will need to make a decision on the amount of money they are willing to put into the project next year. Though Wes didn't know what grants would be available next year, he could guarantee the Borough will be able to submit a very competitive grant application for next April. There was discussion between Cindy Crozier and Edie about funding for the Greenway Project and the 4th of July and fireworks. President Miller said in order to move forward, Council needs to decide where to start and what to start with before any thought is given to writing grants.

**GREENWAYS -
PLANNING
VOLUNTEERS:** John Pick of Elm Street volunteered to work with 5 or 6 other volunteers to come up with a theme for next month and present a plan for the area. Edie volunteered on behalf of the Borough. Barb Pick, Cindy Crozier, Janet Rump and Mayor Dave Hontz also volunteered to be a part of group. There was further discussion regarding Tom Grbenick's presentation and the Greenway concept. Harry Hefty also spoke of "greening" where Pennsylvania Avenue and Second Street come together going up to the cemetery. Pastor Ritter stressed the plan is an idea, a proposal and it's flexible. There was discussion regarding the possible use of the sidewalks and parking lot down at Lingles. Others spoke of helping businesses become more inviting to outdoor activities such as canoeing and

kayaking. There was a talk regarding pledges and donations from local businesses and organizations towards the Greenway Project. A resident reminded the crowd that Lingles owns their parking lot and it is not a municipal parking lot.

**STREET
REPAIRS -
PA AMERICAN
WATER
COMPANY:**

David Plotts of 114 East 3rd Street asked if 3rd Street was going to be straightened out this year from when the water pipes were installed. John Pick said the repairs are scheduled for May 1st. Mr. Plotts said the water company was in the other day with cold patch and made a mess of Third and also on Liberty Street. John Pick said it will be fixed correctly when weather permits. President Miller also asked if the needed repairs on Pennsylvania Avenue belonged to the water company.

**HOT SHOTZ
CONTRACT:**

Solicitor Tira said copies of the Hot Shotz contract for fireworks were provided to Council and after discussion with the owners and Council, a signed contract was dropped off for Council's approval. Solicitor Tira said the contract has been reviewed and a change was initialed in paragraph 9. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to approve the Hot Shotz contract as amended for the 4th of July fireworks. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion approved.

**TREE AT THE
CEMETERY:**

Janet Rump spoke of a tree in the cemetery that Dale was concerned about. The tree is a hazard and the crew can remove it. No motion was necessary. The crew can move forward with the removal of the tree.

**CEMETERY
WALL:**

Edie said the Borough has pursued quotes to repair the cemetery wall for well over a year. She and Dale have recently met with a JE Meyers and Council has been provided his quote. Edie said Option #2 would be a start for the really bad spots and more money could be budgeted for additional repairs next year. Solicitor Tira said Options #1 & #2 are both under the bid requirement but would still require a total of three quotes. Per Solicitor Tira, Option #3 is open-ended and would exceed the bid limit, therefore sealed bids would be legally required. Edie requested the cemetery wall be tabled to allow her time to get acquire 2 more quotes. Solicitor Tira advised her to make several phone calls and document if she cannot get any more quotes, thus fulfilling the obligation of three quotes. The cemetery wall was tabled.

**HARMON –
HANDICAP
PARKING:**

Dan Folk spoke regarding the Harmon's request for handicap parking in front of their home. He recommended the approval and made a motion for a handicap parking sign to be placed in front of Frank Harmon's home. A second was made by Jack Marshall. 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.

**LION'S CLUB –
CHICKEN
BAR-B-QUE:**

President Miller said Council was in receipt of a request from the Lion's Club to use the Canal Boat Pavilion on April 26, 2014 from 8 am to 2 pm for their Chicken Barb-B-Que. Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the Lion's Club request. 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.

**CEMETERY
STEPS:**

Edie spoke regarding the cemetery steps up off of Liberty Street. These steps are in poor condition and are used very little. Edie said you walk through grass part way up from Liberty Street and then the steps start. Last fall, there was talk by Council of removing these steps but a decision was not made. Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to have the crew remove the steps.

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PART-TIME
SEASONAL/
SUMMER
HELP:**

Edie said this past winter during bad weather, Mike Harrison has come in to help the Borough shoveling our sidewalks. Mike is interested in coming back to help through the summer but can only work a certain amount of hours due to his job at the 911 Center. She also received applications from David Weaver and Zach Burrows, who have both worked with the Borough before. Edie said they are not given 40 hours nor benefits, if it rains, they are not working and if the grass doesn't grow they don't work either. She asked permission to put Weaver and Burrows on as additional part-time help when they are finished with school, along with Mike Harrison. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by

Janet Rump to increase the Borough's part-time help for summer. 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.

**GARAGE
AIR
COMPRESSOR:**

Edie said the air compressor at the garage is 15 to 20 years old and has been patched together. When they want to inflate something, they must wait awhile. Dale got a quote for a Quincy air compressor for \$1,392.75. This is the exact model the Borough garage needs and she asked Council to make a motion to allow the crew to purchase the air compressor. Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the purchase of a Quincy air compressor for the Borough garage. Rocky West said if he would have had the specs, he could have possibly gotten the garage a quote as well. Edie said this compressor is coming from C.H. Reed in Milton and Dale had actually gotten a couple of quotes from other companies. This particular compressor is exactly what the garage needs. 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.

**DENNIS
CONKLIN –
C&C PRUNING:**

Edie said she received a call from Dennis Conklin from C&C Pruning offering to prune and trim the cherry trees at the south end of town. He does it for free and takes the branches when he cleans everything up. The Mayor suggested we check with an arborist first, Edie agreed. Other members of Council said Mr. Conklin's references should be checked as well.

**SAFE IN THE
BOROUGH
OFFICE
LOBBY:**

Edie spoke regarding the safe that is on display in the Borough office lobby. It was housed in the Borough garage for years and is dated 1908. Chief Derr said years ago, police ammunition was kept in the safe. Unfortunately, the safe is locked and no one knows the combination. She asked if Council had any interest in opening the safe. She has called A-1 Lock and Key and it would cost \$150.00 or possibly more, depending on what's required but it would then need to be caulked around the hole. President Miller said she may have a connection to get it opened. She will make a call.

**STORM DRAIN –
ROBIN FISHER’S
@ BROAD & 8th
STREETS:**

Edie said Council spoke last fall regarding the storm drain at Robin Fisher’s at the corner of Broad and 8th Streets. The drain was left go because of amesite but it was approved. Robin had been to a meeting this winter asking what the Borough was going to do. Dale and Dan Folk met with a PennDot engineer last week and to fix the drain properly, it would be at a cost of approximately \$5,300.00. Edie read over a detailed list of materials associated with the repair and the Borough crew would do the work. The PennDot engineer said the Borough could also abandon it, take the box out, plug it and amesite it to bring it up to grade to keep the water off the property. No matter what choice is made, the water is going to run into the railroad ditch by the carwash. Edie said taking the drain out will be most beneficial to the homeowner. It will also eliminate an awful smell from the drain that Robin Fisher complains about every summer. Dan Folk said he agrees, by filling it in, it will eliminate the whole problem. Janet Rump made a motion to abandon the drain, which if taken out, the drain can be re-used, and bring the project up to specs to solve that situation and smell. The Borough crew will do the work. Jack Marshall gave a second. 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.

**CAMERAS
MOVED TO
THE BOROUGH
BUILDING:**

The cameras at the Borough garage are not in operation. Edie said she talked with Chief Derr and Sargent Faux and they thought it might be a good idea to have them installed at the Borough building, strategically placed, per the police department. It would be good use of the cameras and the money spent for the monitor. She said under the current circumstances, the cameras would be welcomed. Harry Hefty made a motion to move the cameras to the Borough building. A second was given by Dan Folk. 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.

The Mayor asked if that means he will get his key back. He said he’s been finger printed already.

**EMA SUPPLIES
MOVED TO THE
POLICE END OF
THE GARAGE:**

Edie said the Borough crew has asked if the EMA supplies can be moved back to the police end of the garage. The crew would like the use of that shelving. The Mayor said as long as the supplies are accessible, he then deferred to Chief Derr. Edie said they thought the supplies would be more accessible on the police end. Chief Derr said shelving was built when Larry Stevenson was EMA Director. The Chief said there were some things on the shelving at the police end but they can be cleaned up. It was decided EMA supplies are going to be moved to the police end of the garage.

**SCOTT
WINTERS'
MAIL:**

The Mayor said EMA correspondence was expected for Scott Winters. He asked if mail gets forwarded to Scott. Edie said to her knowledge, nothing has been received for Scott Winters. She said if something came in, it would definitely be forwarded.

MAYOR:

none

**POLICE
DEPARTMENT:**

written

**FIRE and
AMBULANCE:**

written

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

none

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

**BOROUGH
SOLICITOR:**

Solicitor Tira reminded Council of the Executive Session following tonight's meeting. He also asked Edie to confirm the Civil Service Commission had received notification of the approval of their rules and regulations.

**CONDEMNED
PROPERTIES:**

Janet Rump asked how many properties has code enforcement condemned, she saw in reviewing the code enforcement report that 1 letter was sent out. Janet thought there were 5 properties. Solicitor Tira said the other properties are still in process.

**BOROUGH
MANAGER:**

written

**BOROUGH
SECRETARY:**

none

ADJOURNMENT: There being no more business to come before Council, at 8:54 pm a motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Ralph Young to adjourn to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer