

**Watsonstown Borough
Committee Meeting
February 22, 2016**

OPENING: The February 22, 2016 Watsonstown Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held at the First Lutheran Church, 400 Main Street Watsonstown.

MEMBERS: Members present were President Janet Rump, Vice President Harry Hefty, Dan Folk, Greg Miller, Ken Hollenbach, Joshua Fogelman, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

**OTHERS
PRESENT:** Mary Phillips, Robert Brown, Bucky Allis, Becky Hontz, Hal Crozier, Lisa Davis, Erica Frey, Virginia Wirth and Liz Folk.

**CIVIL
SERVICE
COMMISSION:** Bucky Allis spoke on behalf of the Civil Service Commission. He said every two years the regulations require a reorganization meeting; it was held last week. The officers are Bucky Allis, Chairman, Harry Hefty, Vice Chairman and David Powell, Secretary. After a brief discussion, Bucky is to come back to Council with a recommendation regarding the affect Borough Code changes will have on the Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations.

**FINANCE
COMMITTEE:** Harry Hefty spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee. He said the Finance Committee is awaiting the proposed tentative plan to make public improvements from Borough Manager, Jay Jarrett and the Borough's consultant, Chuck Beck. Harry said the first thing on the agenda is the paving schedule; getting our bids out early, etc.

**CEMETERY
COMMITTEE:** Joshua Fogelman said the lighting on the flag in the cemetery has been moved and is sufficient. He also said a rope has been put across to prevent dumping in the new section; there is also a defluctive triangle on the rope. President Rump reminded everyone that no artificial flowers are allowed in the cemetery from March 1st through November 1st.

**ELECTRIC
COMMITTEE:** Harry Hefty said there would be no Electric Committee Meeting this Wednesday and future meetings of the Electric Committee were being moved to "super Thursdays" with the Electric Committee meeting at 6 pm followed by the other scheduled committees. The Electric Committee's first priority is to inventory and determine a replacement cost of the Borough's electric system and infrastructure.

President Rump said the change to the Electric Committee Meetings will be advertised and changed schedules were printed and available at tonight's meeting.

**INSURANCE
COMMITTEE:**

Dan Folk said the Insurance Committee had nothing at this time.

**PARKS &
RECREATION
COMMITTEE:**

Ken Hollenbach spoke on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Committee. He said they talked at their last meeting regarding the ballpark, the benches and dugouts; safety concerns, they are an eye sore and not being used; they spoke of taking them down. The issue was tabled for the next meeting to allow people to discuss the issue.

President Rump said she was pleased to see families using our parks over the weekend.

**PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE:**

Greg Miller spoke on behalf of the Personnel Committee. He said at their first meeting they discussed the employee handbook, employee evaluations and job descriptions. At their next meeting with Jay, they will come up with a plan to get these items together.

**PROTECTION
TO PERSONS &
PROPERTY
COMMITTEE:**

The Mayor said the Protection to Persons and Property Committee hasn't met but encouraged Council and the public to contact himself, Dan Folk or Ken Hollenbach with issues that need to be addressed. Mayor Hontz also asked that the area in front of the Borough Building and Post Office be a priority and cleared of snow and ice as soon as possible after a storm.

**STREETS &
HIGHWAY**

SPEED SIGN:

Harry Hefty asked the Chief about the speed sign at the north end of town. Chief Witherite said the portable radar device was borrowed and it was done to slow traffic down for the crossing guard. The device was borrowed from Riverside Borough and allows driving information to be downloaded regarding driving behaviors. The Chief believes the device was acquired through a partial grant and the only obligation is that it gets lent out to other departments to see if they are interested in getting a device for their communities. Upon Council's request, he agreed to check into the information and advise Council.

**BOROUGH
CREW'S
ASSISTANCE:**

Chief Witherite said it's the season for parades, 5 K's and other Borough events. He has talked with the Borough Manager and is requesting the Borough crew's assistance on the weekends of these events. Dan Folk said the only time the crew comes in on weekends is emergencies; they do not work weekends. The Chief said it takes about a minimum of 20 people to place barriers and man intersections; historically, they've had

trouble getting enough people to help. Solicitor Tira encouraged the Chief to have a conversation with Jay regarding the Borough crew and their contract. There was further conversation regarding safety, training, etc. Robert Brown of 11 East 10th Street asked “why don’t we activate the auxiliary police?” The Mayor said we only had 2 members; he asked if Rob wanted to put himself on the volunteer list; Rob said he’d put his name on the list. Erica Frey of 314 Main Street asked why not go back to the organizations that are sponsoring the events and let them know the number of people needed and the reason you need them and then educate them. Lieutenant Faux said in the past, the police department was in charge of traffic control for events held in the Borough; 24 barricades and 72 traffic codes and a minimum of 20 personnel. The police department and the full time street crew would be approx. 15 people; he has also contacted the State Police and the Sherriff’s Department; they’ve also contacted the fire department for help. Chief Witherite said he will work with the Borough Manager to get the job done. Further suggestions were made including asking for help from the Bureau of Prisons and those sponsoring these events.

**WASTE
MANAGEMENT:**

Joshua Fogelman said the Waste Management Committee had nothing to report.

MAYOR:

The Mayor said he met with the Chief and Janet regarding enforcement.

EDELHOLZ:

Richard Cornell of Edelholz spoke regarding his desire to purchase of a dying walnut tree on Pool Street. It is on Borough property and he has offered to pay the Borough \$1,000.00 for the tree and he will take it down. Solicitor Tira said selling any Borough property requires putting the item out for public bid. The tree’s location is on Pool Street behind 601 Elm Street. Dan Folk is concerned with others coming to purchase trees; Mr. Cornell said it costs about \$1,500.00 to take a tree down. President Rump said the Council would research the issue further and be in contact with Mr. Cornell by cell phone.

**ORDINANCE
2016-02:**

Solicitor Tira said Ordinance 2016-02 was regarding wording changes to the Police Pension Fund. The changes have no effect on the Police Pension Fund itself. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Ken Hollenbach, to approve Ordinance 2016-02 as advertised. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

C&C PRUNING: President Rump read a letter from Dennis Conklin of C&C Pruning. He prunes flowering trees while they are dormant and uses the clippings for floral arrangements. He would like to top and thin out the trees along Route 405 at the boat ramp; he will do it for free and make a \$300 donation to the town. He also requested permission to maintain the trees every 3 years. Solicitor Tira said if Council is interested at all, the request should be written into an agreement with proof of insurance; this is not the sale of Borough property but rather the donation of a service to the Borough. Harry Hefty said we should ask for references and the Mayor said it might be prudent to get a 2nd opinion, possibly from Ryan Ossont of Turbotville Landscape. The conversation continued. President Rump said she or Jay will contact C&C Pruning for insurance and references.

WATSONTOWN LION'S CLUB EGG HUNT: Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk, approving the Watsonstown Lion's Club Egg Hunt at Watsonstown Memorial Park on Saturday, March 19, 2016. The Lion's Club included their insurance certificate naming the Borough as an additional insured. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD DOMINION BRUSH INVOICE: An Old Dominion Brush invoice was presented by the Public Works Department for approval. Per Jay, the amount would be \$1371.00 plus freight. A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the invoice to purchase parts to repair the leaf picker. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Fogelman	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

PATTY E. HACKENBERG MEMORIAL SITE: President Rump read an invitation from the Arrowhead Restaurant regarding a ribbon cutting ceremony in honor of Patty E. Hackenberg. The ceremony is on March 17, 2016 at 2:30 PM. The Borough is invited to attend.

APPOINTMENT TO MRSA: Jay asked Council to appoint him to the Milton Regional Sewer Authority Board. A motion was made by Ken Hollenbach, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to appoint Jay Jarrett to the MRSA Board. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Fogelman	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

Solicitor Tira asked for an Executive Session following tonight's meeting regarding possible litigation. They will not return to a Public Session.

**BOROUGH
MANAGER:**

Jay Jarrett, Borough Manager, said he had nothing to add other than what was on his report. He just completed day 6 and is pleased to be working for Watsontown.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before Council, at 8:03 pm, Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to adjourn the meeting to an Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer