

**Watsonstown Borough
Committee Meeting
July 27, 2015**

OPENING: The July 27, 2015 Watsonstown Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was moved from Council Chambers to the First Lutheran Church at 400 Main Street Watsonstown.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Jack Marshall and Mayor David Hontz were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Ritter, Mary Phillips, Lisa Davis, Kevin Mertz, Buzz Reynolds, Gloria Buhl, Robert Friend, Diana Johnson, Diane Paulukinas, Doug Hagerman, Viola Ranck, Sandy Hendricks, Joe Sylvester, Brian Harrison, Ken Hollenbach, Robert Brown, Cindy Crozier, Hal Crozier, Bucky Allis and Liz Folk.

MIKE FORESMAN - SUBDIVISION: Brendi presented President Miller with a letter from the Northumberland County Planning Department regarding Mike Foresman's subdivision request. She also had 4 copies of a drawing as provided by Nathaniel J. Gearhart, a land surveyor working with Mike Foresman on the subdivision. President Miller said Solicitor Tira would look over the letter and the subdivision should be put on next week's agenda.

ROBERT FRIEND – CHRIST WESLEYAN CHURCH: Robert Friend of Christ Wesleyan Church said he was here for a signature on his Penn Dot notification application for their annual motorcycle "Ride for America" to be held on August 29, 2015. This ride honors the American Flag and includes approx. 1500 motorcycles leaving Christ Wesleyan at 11:00 AM and coming in on 8th Street, making a left on Main Street, turning left onto Brimmer Avenue and proceeding to Route 15. They expect to come through the Borough around 12:30 PM. Solicitor Tira asked a few questions; Mr. Friend said they have insurance coverage for \$2,000,000.00 and he will work out further details with the Chief Witherite regarding intersections, etc. A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve the motorcycle ride through Watsonstown. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried. President Miller signed the application on Watsonstown's behalf.

**BARB DIEHL-
4th of JULY:**

Barb Diehl spoke on behalf of she and Rene Toro to give a summary on the 4th of July. She said it went well; they didn't make as much money this year because they spent money for the car show and no one registered because of the weather. On a positive note, they have already have everything for next year's car show. She also said Mr. Sticky sales helped offset some of the costs. She said vendors did have a very good evening. She said in the past Council has allowed \$7,000.00 for fireworks; she asked if it were possible for \$8,000.00 next year. The request is due to the increased cost in fireworks and they would like to continue with as good of a show next year as in past years. President Miller said the increase will be discussed at budget time but she sees no reason that Council come up with another \$1,000.00 for fireworks. Barb said additional money was allotted for the committee this year that wasn't used that can be used for next year as well. Harry Hefty asked when the contract is due; he said they usually want a contract signed. It was concluded that generally the contract comes to the Borough office not the committee.

**MUSIC/MOVIES
IN THE PARK:**

Barb Diehl also spoke on behalf of WABA regarding Music and Movies in the Park. She said they will have it in the month of August but said they were thinking of changing things up for the month of September. Those in charge are not available the 3rd Friday so they'd like to have it on the 2nd Friday if the park is available; it also happens to be September 11th. She knows a few years ago, things were held in the park for veterans and emergency service personnel. They were thinking of having the same type of event that night, serving dinner and having music. President Miller said the park schedule would be checked and she saw no reason not to approve the request. If there is a conflict Barb would be notified, otherwise the change is fine.

**PLANNING
DEPARTMENT
LETTER:**

Solicitor Tira reviewed the letter from the Northumberland County Planning Department and said the plan for Mike Foresman's sub-division was scheduled to be reviewed on July 28, 2015. The Borough cannot do anything with the plan until the county has considered it and we've heard back from them. President Miller asked for the sub-division to be put on next week's agenda and said she hopes Mike has the approval back by then. She said the plan will either be copied for Council or in the office for everyone to look at.

**1st NATIONAL
BANK:**

President Miller introduced members of 1st National Bank: Doug Hagerman, Diana Johnson and Diane Paulukinas. Harry Hefty said the Finance Committee has looked at several banks to expand and update financial services. They include allowing people to pay with credit cards and pay with electronic payments. They've also looked at some of the checking accounts and whether we can earn interest/credits and how it can pay for some of these services. He continued regarding "who" pays for

banking services, etc. The Finance Committee asked Council to consider the following proposal and it can be voted on next week; the committee feels this was the best offer for the Borough and the customer. He turned the meeting over to Diane Paulukinas from 1st National Bank. She said they are able to provide free banking services to the Borough based on balances in accounts. The Borough will not pay any services involved with merchant services, the consumer will. They are also planning on allowing our residents to resume paying the electric bill at their bank. Harry said residents would be able to take advantage of the banks hours; some nights they are open until 6 PM. The collection of electric bills would go until the end of the “banking” day. A resident asked about the availability of auto pay; Diane said that service is called Automatic Clearing House. They talked of that service in the future but at this point, the bank has not discussed going forward with ACH at this time. There are additional fees associated with it for the Borough and also there are some regulatory requirements that the borough would have to take on and she does know if the Borough is ready to take them on at this time. Diane said 1st National is willing to help anyone interested in online banking and most banks do offer free online bill pay. Harry said 1st National would also be available through the Borough’s website to pay online as well. Diane said the Borough will earn free banking services based on the balances they carry and in turn provide services to residents at no cost as well as the ability to again pay at the bank. A resident asked what the fee will be for paying with a credit card; Diane said it depends, it hasn’t been negotiated yet but it would be between 2 ½ and 3% of the bill being paid. Diane said this is an option that might not be for everyone; it’s a convenience. Harry said banking fees either have to be paid by the business or the customer. Diane said 1st National Bank customers can set up auto transfers without fees to pay their electric bill but using a debit card is the same as a credit card and will be charged fees. Diane clarified the difference between credits and interest; the Borough would earn credits to pay for banking services instead of interest based on the electric account balance. A check scanner is one of the banking services that would be free to the Borough. Harry elated on assets in connection with pension funds. The electric account is currently earning no interest nor is it earning banking services; it’s doing nothing for the Borough. Diane has also proposed premium interest rates for Public Funds Money Market accounts. They have proposed both banking services and increased interest rates to the Finance Committee. President Miller asked for the proposal to be included on next week’s agenda.

**NO DUMPING
SIGNS –
CEMETERY:
TOW PATH:**

Janet Rump said 6 “no dumping” signs were ordered for the cemetery. Maintenance continues with grass mowing; Dincher and Dincher will be coming mid-August to take a tree down. A resident asked if the tow path is owned by the Borough; Janet said it is maintained by the Pathways Committee. It was clarified that the land

beyond the tow path that has been timbered out is privately owned; Ralph Young said the owner has every right to cut the trees down or anything he wants to do; it's his land.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

Harry Hefty said the Electric Committee is requesting an Executive Session for possible litigation; no action will be taken after the session.

**PARKS &
RECREATION:**

Janet said the swing and seesaw were ordered. The latches at the 8th Street Park have been fixed. She said there is concern and talk is needed to decide what is going to be done about the gazebo at the 8th Street Park. It is deteriorating and needs action this year to avoid further deterioration and there is a tree that needs replaced there as well. Janet said there was a question regarding the footer under Mayor Brown's stone at the park. She understood at the last meeting that the Borough workers would lay the footer for the stone; but others on Council thought someone suggested a professional lay the footer. She said our Borough workers lay footers at the cemetery and other similar work so she feels they are competent enough to do it. They have not gone ahead because they felt there was a conflict there; she asked someone to clarify. President Miller asked Janet to talk with Greg Brouse to see where the issue stands. Dan Folk thought that someone at a previous meeting felt a professional should be brought in to handle the footer; President Miller said the crew feels confident that they can do the job and do it right then we will let the Borough crew do the job; Harry agreed.

CANAL BOAT:

Janet said the crew filled in with top soil around the sidewalk in the handicap area of the Canal Boat; they also seeded it and put straw down. Weeding was done by individuals at the Canal Boat; Janet mentioned there is poison down there.

**BRIDGE AT
TOW PATH**

Janet said the bridge to cross over on the tow path has been approved. She recently attended a Pathways Committee meeting and they have spoken with the gentleman making the bridge and they are hoping for it to begin soon. President Miller said someone told her the bridge would be made out of poles; Janet said telephone poles will be involved in securing the bridge into the bank "walls"; she understood the bridge itself would be made out of other construction materials. President Miller asked if the Borough will have to maintain it; Janet said that wasn't mentioned at the meeting she attended. Harry said it has taken years to get this far; President Miller said it is a foot bridge. Harry and Janet agreed that the bridge has been approved by an engineer and licensing; the committee has gone through everything necessary and finalized. Harry said it has been brought to Council before and studied for many years. Janet said the Pathways Committee continues to trim the path back and reminded everyone their work is all volunteer. President Miller asked Janet to get further information regarding the bridge

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Solicitor Tira asked for an Executive Session for personnel. When asked if they will come back out to a Public Session, Solicitor Tira said there is no decision.

STREETS & HIGHWAYS: Dan Folk said the guys have been busy painting lines on the streets, mowing grass and chipping curbs is finished. They are in the painting stage now.

POLICE RENOVATIONS: Chief Witherite said they are approx. \$1,000.00 short in the amount needed for renovations to the police department. Council agreed to move money from Emergency Management for the renovations. President Miller said if we are that close we can probably move something around, but nothing more than that.

INT'L PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE: Solicitor Tira said he met with Edie on July 8, 2015 and she brought him her notes from prior meetings. He is working on the process of compiling the information.

SALT STORAGE SHED: Dan Folk said the survey has been done by Harold Keefer and a rough draft mapping the area was given to Dan. When we are ready, Harold will come up and help the Borough lay out the boundaries. President Miller asked if everything is done when Council is ready to go ahead with the salt storage shed; Dan said Harold will help to mark every out to help in deciding the size and location of the shed.

GENERATOR: There has been no contact this week with Jim Harvrilla regarding the generator. Lisa said Jim had been on vacation last week and was to call Janet to discuss lighting at the Canal Boat. Janet had offered to also ask Jim about the generator as well; she did not hear from him. President Miller asked Lisa to try and contact Jim Harvrilla again tomorrow.

LYNN WATSON – ALLEY DRAIN: Dan Folk said called Lynn Watson about the alley drain. He told Dan he would be here this week to fix it. Lynn is to call Dan when he is coming.

DRUG TESTING: Solicitor Tira said information from Evangelical's drug testing program was at Council's seat this evening. At the July 6, 2015 Council Meeting, Edie announced Evangelical was no longer going to do employee drug testing and CDL drug testing effective August 31, 2015. He said tonight's letter from Evangelical lists 6 potential providers of drug testing programs. Brendi said she did find paper work from Mid-State Occupational Health on Edie's desk. She offered to contact as many as Council wants for quotes on drug testing services. President Miller said Mid-State was closest but Solicitor Tira said the letter states many of them have collection sites in multiple areas and can still provide drug and alcohol services to the Borough. Janet said we should get information on 3 places;

should anything fall through with one, we will have the information on at least 2 others. The information is to be provided to Council for Monday's Council Meeting. The issue will be on the agenda.

The recording became inaudible.

GUTTERS TO GO:

Janet Rump spoke regarding an estimate to replace gutters at the park from Rick Buck at Gutters to Go. This information was provided to Council at the July 6th Council Meeting. She showed a sample of the gutter system and also said they are on the Borough Garage. She further explained that the "fish/french fry" building is in need of gutters; the rain is currently running down over the gas/fuel tanks that are down there. She said the "food serving building" and the pool house only need gutter guards installed; she showed the sample of the gutter guard. She noted the system is not corrugated in the back as previously questioned. President Miller asked for that the information be provided again in Council's packets for Monday's Council Meeting. It will be included on next week's agenda. It was confirmed the estimate is broken out for each building and the total was under bid requirements.

PAVING BIDS:

President Miller opened the sealed bids for the 2015 paving project. Solicitor Tira reviewed the bids. The results were as follows:

- HRI, Inc. \$36,520.00
- Mid-State Paving, LLC \$26,732.00
- Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. \$39,703.00
- Doli Construction Corporation \$47,516.00
- New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc. \$28,590.00

President Miller said the lowest bid was from Mid-State Paving, LLC at \$26,732.00. Janet asked if bids included the three areas to be paved and the crack sealing; Solicitor Tira advised crack sealing was included in the bids. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to accept the lowest paving bid from Mid-State Paving, LLC at \$26,732.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried. President Miller advised Brendi to notify Mid-State Paving, LLC tomorrow.

CLEANING SERVICES:

Brendi said she had two cleaning services in to look at the office. She had one quote with her this evening from Home Sweet Home and she will have McCormick's quote for next week's meeting. Brendi asked if

Council wanted to pursue a cleaning service or an individual to clean. President Miller said it would be more expensive to hire a cleaning service but she thought it was difficult to find someone interested. Brendi thought approx. 20 people applied for the position the last time the Borough was looking. She asked again considering the big picture, was Council interested in an individual or a company. Harry said he'd be interested in the two quotes already being pursued; Dan asked if we'd looked again at the applications we had last time. Harry said a company is a professional, an individual is an employee. President Miller asked for the quotes from the two mentioned companies; if the quotes are too high than Council will need to decide to go with an individual. Brendi is to provide Council with the quotes for next week's meeting.

**MRSA BOARD
APPOINTMENT:**

President Miller received a call from Bill Michael. Edie represented the Borough on the MRSA Board. The Borough needs to appoint someone to replace Edie on the MRSA Board. Though it's not necessary, President Miller feels it is Council's wish to have either a Council member or one of the girls from the office to represent the Borough on the MRSA Board. President Miller said it would be on the agenda for next week; Council should take the week to give it thought. Harry said they meet the 3rd Thursday of the month from 8:00 to 9:00 AM at Milton.

**NORTH'D
TAX
COLLECTION
COMMITTEE:**

Harry said he was also contacted by Bill Michael regarding the seat Edie held with the Northumberland County Tax Collection Committee. President Miller said Harry was the alternate on the committee.

**OTHER
APPOINTMENTS:**

President Miller said there will be other appointments as well. Edie represented the Borough at WABA meetings. Council will need to make a list of those positions represented by Edie for the Borough. She said if there was anyone willing to serve on the MRSA Board or the Northumberland County Tax Collection Committee, please let her know by next week. Brendi said Ronda Bogle from MRSA provided an information link for anyone looking to serve on the Northumberland County Tax Collection Committee.

**CARDS &
LETTERS:**

Brendi said the Borough was in receipt of numerous cards and letters of condolence regarding Edie's passing. She brought with her a letter from WABA and a letter from Montgomery Borough expressing sympathy and offering help to the Borough at this time of great loss. She said offers of help have come out of the woodwork from Township Supervisors, Borough Managers and others in the community. She said there are people who really do care about Watsontown and people have taken us under their wing. President Miller said Gloria Buhl also came in to go over our insurance needs. She said Edie took care of so much; nobody

realized how much she just took care of; we now have to pick up the pieces and put the puzzle back together again.

VIOLA RANCK-MEMORIAL GARDEN:

Viola Ranck spoke regarding the loss of Edie Moser, Watsontown’s Borough Manager. She spoke of Edie’s dedication and loyalty to the town. She proposed the new monument and garden area in the new cemetery be named to honor Edie’s memory. She proposed the area be named the Edith A. Moser Memorial Garden. She would like a plaque placed in the front and the back of the stone so it can be seen from both sides. The plaque should be in loving memory of Edie’s dedicated service. The town owes Edie an immeasurable debt of gratitude; this is one small way for Watsontown to show that it will never forget Edie. Viola said she signed her proposal and has already sent it to Council. She then made the suggestion that she and Tim would be willing to pay for the plaques themselves. President Miller said it was something Council could think on for next Monday night; she thought it was a wonderful idea. Someone asked “wasn’t that donated by Cronraths”. President Miller said the stone was donated by Cronraths, the Mayor worked on everything around it but it was paid for by the Borough. A resident said the Mayor used his supplies to work on the fence. President Miller said Cronraths should be contacted since they donated the stone; she asked Viola to contact Cronraths to make sure they have no problem with the proposal. Viola is to let Council know and if it is ok with Cronraths, it will be on the agenda for Monday night.

President Miller stated we will be picking up the pieces for a long time. She said everyone’s patience is appreciated.

BROKEN PIPE - POOL STREET:

Brendi said she had an estimate for the hold down on Pool Street. President Miller asked Dan to explain. During heavy rains last week, there was a washout down on Pool Street and a pipe broke. He said they had a contractor come and look at fixing it so it doesn’t get any worse. There was potential for it to take a pole down with a transformer on it; it is now secured and solid but it cannot be left go; it could possibly erode back into Canal Street. The estimate is for \$2,703.54 for the total job to be done. When asked, Solicitor Tira said it was within the dollar amount to make a motion for the work to be done. Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to hire Leslie Hauck Construction of Muncy to repair the damage on the bank on Pool Street. The following roll call was taken:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WEED
SPRAYING:**

A resident asked if the Borough could budget for weed spraying this year. President Miller asked Brendi to make a note and it would be checked into for budget time.

**ADJOURN TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Ralph Young, seconded by Harry Hefty to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer