

**Watsonstown Borough Council  
Committee Meeting  
December 16, 2013**

**OPENING:** The December 16, 2013 Watsonstown Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by Council President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Members present: President Harriet Miller, Vice President Harry Hefty, Jack Marshall, Ralph Young, Dan Folk, Pat Yeager, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Mayor Dave Hontz, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

**VISITORS:** Buzz Reynolds, Mary Phillips, Janet Rump, Ursula Harmon, Dave Powell, Viola Ranck, Liz Folk, Sandy Hendricks, Jeff Rachau, Jason Kling, Cindy Crozier, Ken Hollenbach, Jr., Barbara Pick, Becky Hontz, Ralph Heater.

**TAX ORDINANCE 2013-04:** Edie said the Tax Ordinance 2013-04 has been advertised. Solicitor Tira advised the 2014 Budget needed passed first so the tax ordinance matches the budget. Pat Yeager said in Council packets, there was information on increasing millage so why would Council pass the budget and the tax ordinance if they weren't going to discuss the increase in millage. President Miller said they weren't going to do anything with the budget tonight because they had worked too hard on it. She said that was her opinion. Jack Marshall and Harry Hefty said it was revenue neutral, it doesn't change the budget. Pat Yeager said if she wasn't mistaken, in 2012 Council was told their power purchase was going to increase from 7.5% to 11%. She said this Council chose to increase to 11% so they could get it done and wouldn't have to increase it every year. She said with this proposal, to decrease it by 5%, we are now using tax dollars to pay for the power we buy from AMP-Ohio because we have now only increased it by 6% and not 7.5%. Edie said Jim Harvilla wasn't sure in 2012 so Council increased it to 11% for two reasons, the electric rate increase and they also wanted a bucket truck. Council budgeted \$100,000.00 in 2013 and again in 2014 because the bucket truck wasn't purchased in 2013. Pat confirmed with Edie that the increase in electric rates from AMP-Ohio for 2013 was 7.5% but Council increased the electric rate to 11%. She said if Council decreases the rate by 5%, it will be an overall increase of 6%, 1.5% less than the actual electric rate increase from AMP-Ohio. Solicitor Tira said Council would reduce its overall margin and that's the reason there would have to be a millage increase. Harry said the information regarding "revenue neutral reduction" is a matter of sliding money around that we already have in the budget. Jack Marshall said they are trying to help the businesses out in town. He used an illustration of scales and said Council was trying to even things out. Pat said it was being evened out at a cost to the homeowners. Jack said if anyone had a better idea, now was the time to

bring it up. Harry said it would be “revenue neutral” to some and Pat said it would not be “revenue neutral” to the property owners. Pat said Council was told they could only increase real estate taxes 10 mills per year. Harry went on to explain, basically a 1 percent reduction in electric rates is equal to an average of 1.7 tax millage increase. He said depending on the assessed value on a home, a mill could equal \$10, \$38 or a blue building in town is equal to \$800.00. He said for a modest home in the Borough, the tax millage increase would come pretty close to the electric rate reduction. Pat said that Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Heater are both present, both are business owners and property owners. She asked them if they thought this was a good idea. Ursula Harmon spoke up and said she was a homeowner and a business owner and she did not think this was a good idea. She said customers might not patronize Borough businesses because homeowner’s electric rates are going up while business electric rates are going down. Harry clarified that every property owner’s electric rate would be reduced by 5%. He said instead of spreading a tax increase over 12 months of electric bills, you would pay an increase in millage one time per year. He said the trouble with Watsontown is back in the 1950’s, rather than access millage, revenue was raised through electricity, so when it gets hot, people like Buzz’s 25% electric rate now doubles to 50%. His rates go up and down depending on the weather. He said millage is a flat tax that can be deducted but the tax put on electric is not deductible. Harry said they would take 50 mills of tax to pull the revenue off of the electric. Instead of raising taxes, electric rates were increased but now the cost of electric has increased so much that Buzz and D&D are paying more for their electric than they are for their mortgage. They also have multipliers, possibly 50 people in the Borough have demand meters. Edie said all businesses in the Borough have demand meters. Ursula Harmon said the Borough put a demand meter on her sister’s home. Her sister does not advertise, she does taxes, she is a financial planner. Ursula said the Borough went onto her property and put a demand meter on without notifying her. She is paying electric through the demand meter on her entire house. Ursula asked how the Borough can get away with that. Edie said she has addressed the demand meter with Greta. Ursula asked if the Borough has installed a demand meter on the home on Elm Street that belongs to the Psychotherapist or the photographer on 8<sup>th</sup> Street. She said it is only fair if all businesses have demand meters. She said her sister sent someone outside with Mike when he came to read the meter. He accidentally told her there was a demand meter. Ursula said Edie got upset because Greta insisted someone be outside when Mike read the meter. Ursula said there has already been mistakes on her electric bill, a mistake made by the girls in the office transposing numbers, not by the person who read the meter. Her husband actually went out and read the meter. She said “you guys” make mistakes so don’t complain when someone wants to watch what you’re doing. She said she wants to know if those people have demand meters on their

properties. She again said the Borough never told her sister about the installation of the demand meter and it was dishonest and a disgrace, she asked how you can lay down to sleep at night, she doesn't know. Harry said he has never seen a list of all demand meters and Jack Marshall said he didn't think anyone has a list of all demand meters. Ursula said there should be a list and everyone should know it. She said when her dad was alive, he sold insurance. They told him as long as he didn't advertise his business, they didn't have to put a demand meter on and he didn't have to pay a business rate. Harry said he didn't know the policy for demand meters. Jack Marshall said he agreed, the rule should be the same for everyone. Ursula asked how you can rightfully walk onto someone's property and install a demand meter without notification of it. Jack said we shouldn't do it without notification of it. Ursula said "you guys" did and somehow you justify it. Ursula said Council is the people "we" have hired to take care of our Borough. Jack Marshall said it cannot be corrected if they don't know about it. Ursula said everything gets swept under the table. Harry said the only way to help the person with a demand meter issue is to take the rate down and the only way to get to those who don't pay electric in Watson town is through millage. Pat Yeager asked if Harry was referring to the Moran buildings. She said 2 out of 8 do not pay electric and that was a grandfathered thing that went with his deed. The rest of his buildings pay electric to the Borough. Harry said every building in the Borough is subject to taxes. Jack said when you're warehousing, you're not going to use as much electric so millage on real estate will cost Mr. Moran more. Harry said approx. \$2,000 per mill. Pat said a millage increase will cost every property owner. Jack said it would be based on the assessed value of each property. President Miller said the thinking has always been, raising the electricity for revenue hits everyone in the town, including the tenants. By raising millage, it hits only the homeowners. That's why it's been the electricity, at least since she's been here, rather than raise property taxes. She said she doesn't want to pay more in millage, she'd rather see all these tenants pay their share. Cindy Crozier said from what she has heard, tenants come in, decide they cannot afford the electricity and they leave and stick the landlord with it. The turnover rate is even destructive to the landlords. President Miller said the landlords need to be more cautious about who they move in. Edie said it isn't the majority but it does happen. President Miller said they have to pay \$150 hook-up fee (meter deposit) when they move in and that's taken off their final bill. Pat said she still wanted to hear from Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Heater as to their opinion because they are business owners in this town and also property owners and she would like to hear what they have to say. She said that's what we need to do here, to start listening to them. Buzz Reynolds ask why have a demand meter. When he started business here 44 years ago there was no demand meter on the business. He said as soon as he moved up on Eighth Street and built a new building, they slapped one on there and they've been slapping me around ever since.

He said he understands that when he talked with the Borough's engineer, which he appreciated, he was happy that someone was there to try and explain it to him. What he understood from the engineer was they have nothing to do with the demand meter. Edie said the Borough gets its demand pricing from AMP-Ohio, the engineer doesn't put that on. The Borough actually pays a demand on the monthly bill that comes in from AMP-Ohio. The engineer does it but the demand is on the bill from AMP-Ohio. The Borough put the demand meters on several years ago. She said if this Council chose to take the demand meters from the businesses, the Borough would have to come up with the money to pay for the demand cost that comes on the bill from AMP-Ohio that we pass onto the businesses. Edie said when our bill comes, there is different transmission charges, ie. NYPA, etc. The bill will have on it when the Borough used its highest demand and lowest demand. The bill is very detailed. That bill gets sent to Jim Harvilla, the Borough's electric engineer, every month. He actually calculates the PPA that's on everyone's electric bill every month from the Borough's bill from AMP-Ohio, the town as a whole. Buzz asked if AMP-Ohio sells the Borough power. Pat asked even though she doesn't have a demand meter, is she paying at the highest rate. Edie said no because Pat's meter just registers. All of the demand meters are different. For example, Buzz's demand meter may be 8.72 and Ralph's demand meter might be 5.64 and Ursula's may be lower or higher. Every demand meter is actually read when meters are read. Edie said Pat's meter is one reading as a residential meter. Edie said Jim has said the demand is based on the highest demand in a 15 minute period during the billing cycle. She suggested having Jim Harvilla come to talk to the Council about the electric. Harry said he has talked with Dr. Yannacone's son, who works for a company in Houston that sells electricity, similar to AMP-Ohio. The issue of demand meters is as touchy of a subject down there as it is here. He gave the example of selling electricity to the grid at 10:00 for \$1.00 and buy electricity at 3:00 for \$2.00. It is the nature of the commodity. Dave Powell asked how we are able to budget the purchase of electricity for the following year. Edie said we have a contract with the others in our group and Jim Harvilla, the electrical engineer for the whole group will take the last 12 month's bills for each municipality and calculates what Watsontown will use. She also gave examples of Mifflinburg and Catawissa. Every year at budget time, Jim does the calculations and gives Edie the budget figures for the expense and revenue of the electric, based on actual figures from the previous 12 months. Edie said though Jim is always pretty close, the numbers depend on hot summers and cold winters because obviously that makes a huge difference in the electric. Buzz asked if he understood it right regarding the demand meter, if he uses power and the demand is at the highest point, is that where it stays and he's paying this high price for the rest of the month, whether he is using that much power or not. Edie said yes, he will pay at the multiplier for his highest demand. Sandy Hendricks said when she

was in business, she never shut her coolers down, they ran all the time. Harry said if they were all turned on at once, it would create a high demand and Pat said if they are left on, they would average out. Sandy said she was unaware she even had a demand meter. Edie said the first 10 are at a minimum price, approx. \$15.99, she wasn't sure, she said she'd have to look at the resolution. President Miller said moving on with this but Pat said she hadn't heard from Mr. Heater, did he have anything to say. Ralph Heater said he had something regarding another discussion but nothing on this. Harry Hefty said the other two factors in this is to take the library millage of .5 mills out of the general fund and name it so people can see it. 2.5 mills is for fire, it's already in the general fund but Harry would like it named so people again can see it. He said if Council wanted to reduce the tax obligation on businesses, you give them a 5% rate reduction on their electric bill and on the average, 8.5 mills to equal that reduction. It depends on how much millage you have on your house and how much electricity you use. Pat Yeager asked if the calculations were Harry's and Harry said they were from Jim Harvilla. He referenced information he provided in Council's packets regarding electric rates versus millage. He said 31% of every electric bill is revenue that comes directly to the Borough. He said because electric is so high and the need to pass on the cost of electricity, he doesn't see how this Borough being able to tax like Mifflinburg just did, 2%. Their electric rates didn't go up, Mifflinburg is taxing their people on their electricity. Their electric rates and our electric rates, the cost did not go up. They are doing what Watsonstown has always done, they are raising revenue by tacking it on the electric bill and getting bulk payments every month and when it's a hot summer, their income goes up. Pat Yeager asked what will happen in 2014 when they say we are going to get another 7.5 to 11 percent increase in electric costs, then what, will you increase taxes again by 8.5%. Harry said she was missing the whole point, to which Pat stated "that's how I get treated". Harry said you pass through increases in the cost of electricity but if we need 3 mills of tax, you call it 3 mills of tax, call a spade a spade. If you don't want to increase taxes then you reduce something. You can't just tack it onto the electricity because the electricity is so expensive. Sandy Hendricks said basically our taxes are much lower in this area than it is any place else. You can go anyplace else and they say Watsonstown, the rates of your electricity are so high, I wouldn't move to Watsonstown. Harry said in Watsonstown, you actually have 60 mills of tax. Watsonstown has very high taxes, it's just hidden from view. President Miller said everyone pays electricity, not just homeowners. Harriet said you're feeling sorry for tenants who cannot afford their electric bill but what about the young people who just bought homes and now they are going to pay an additional 8.5 mill real estate tax. Pat asked about the older people on fixed incomes when you have renters who get a 5% decrease in electric and they are happy because their bills went down. If taxes go up, landlords will pass along the increase to their tenants. Harry then spoke

about the earned income tax in Watson town. Harriet said Council needed to move onto approving the budget. Solicitor Tira said Council needed to decide if the “revenue neutral reduction” was going to be a part of the budget. He said whatever budget Council decides to pass, it must be clear. He said the tax ordinance will need to be advertised, but the budget will not have to be re-advertised. There are provisions in the Borough code that provide for modification as long as the original budget was on display for 10 days. The tax ordinance will need re-advertised to match whatever Council passes. Harry said names the library millage and naming the fire contribution millage are not controversial. Edie said the figures were going to have to be changed in the budget. Solicitor Tira said there wouldn't be a change in the bottom line. Edie said if they take 5% from electric then the electric budget is wrong and she will need to do some work. She said the auditor will look at this next year and question her. Solicitor Tira said the budget will look differently if they modify it to show the figures differently. He said Council could approve the modified budget tonight but they would have to do some figuring. Edie said they don't have figures. Harry said tax revenue would increase and electric revenue would decrease with the modification. Pat said the change wasn't Jim Harvilla's idea but rather he put some numbers together, as he was asked to do. Harry read from the information he provided to Council which said “a revenue neutral transfer reduction would require the following tax millage increase to offset the revenue loss”. Pat said it will also affect what the tax collector is paid. Edie and Pat said the change affects everything. Harry said if Council does nothing than it affects business people. Edie asked Council to be clear so she knows what she needs to do. Solicitor Tira said it sounds as though if Council passes this change, it will not be in a format that Council is ready to approve tonight so another meeting will be needed before the end of the year. Harry said there would have to be a meeting the last Monday of the month. Solicitor Tira said the budget must be done before the 31<sup>st</sup>. He said if there was no motion on the change, the motion just dies. Council can make a motion to pass the budget as advertised. It is Council's prerogative. President Miller mentioned the debt service tax, which Edie confirmed at a total of 7.52%, was not taken off, but rather moved to the general fund. Edie said the tax ordinance she advertised was for 16.25 general mills. President Miller said residents wouldn't be paying anymore but rather that portion previously designated debt service was now called general. Millage was not reduced by the 7.52 debt service, it was left in there to fund the budget. Harry said maybe Council could think about the change for next year's budget. President Miller said with a year to work on it, Council could look at some alternatives rather than spring it on at budget time. Jack Marshall said he hasn't heard any alternatives and they will just have to cut spending. President Miller said that may be what they will have to do. They will have a year to look at it and see what can be done. Harry said in the future, they cannot tack revenue onto electricity. He gave the example

of a 2% increase in electricity rate equal to 3.40 tax mills. The ability to tax people in the future will become extinct; we will have to cut spending. The Mayor apologized for being late but asked if the additional 8.5% includes the library and the fire contribution. Solicitor Tira said no, he believed that the library and fire contribution was reallocation, just naming taxes. Solicitor Tira said the only issue with naming them is the money cannot be reallocated elsewhere. Pat said she saw no reason to name the library or fire contribution. Harry disagreed and said he liked naming them. Jack said instead of money just going into the general fund, it would list the actual expense, making it more clear. The Mayor asked if the taxes were named, were we tied to it, to which he was answered yes. At budget time, it can be reduced. Pat gave other examples of things within the budget that could be named and Harry said he preferred things to be named. Pat suggested to be up front and show "them" the figures and asked if everyone here had seen the proposed budget. Edie said it was on display and President Miller said if they didn't, it was available. Viola Ranck of 248 East Fourth Street asked if Council would give homeowners 2 basic examples of the millage increase versus the electric rate reduction. She said she didn't think she was the only confused by the issue. If Council could put together 2 basic concepts of what an electric rate increase would mean to the citizens and homeowners of the town, using round numbers so all can understand, versus increasing millage. She asked that the numbers be based on the cost of an average property. She said she didn't feel it was an unreasonable request then let the citizens decide. Possibly a Plan B would be to take one of our average businesses here in the Borough and explain what a demand meter is. Viola said she has to kind of agree with Ursula, she is appalled that someone would have a demand meter and not even know it. It makes her wonder, as a citizen, "do I have a demand meter on my home as well?" President Miller said any business or business ran out of a home should have a demand meter. Pat Yeager said Greta is paying a demand meter, living in the house. Ursula said they put one on Allen's property without his knowledge as well and the demand meter is for the entire house. Edie said Jim Harvilla spoke for sure once, if not twice with Greta and gave her the reason why the Borough could do that. Edie said though she didn't have it with her, she has all the information. Pat asked shouldn't there be 2 meters, 1 for her business area and 1 for her home. Edie said she could be given that option if she wanted it; to which Ursula said if Greta would have known it at the time that you were going to do it, she probably would have chosen 2 meters. She has been paying a demand on all the electricity coming into that house. Ursula asked "how can you legally get away with it"? She said to Solicitor Tira "you are a Solicitor, say it", to which Solicitor Tira said "what"? She said "how can you get away with it"! Solicitor Tira said Ursula was yelling, not asking a question. Ursula asked how he expected someone to act? Solicitor Tira said he was going to keep it professional, and he was going to tell her that based on the way electric operates, his

understanding is you can have 1 meter and the Borough is under no obligation to have an additional meter. One meter per residence and if they so choose to allow you to have 2, that would be different. He hasn't had a conversation with Jim Harvilla regarding what the Borough has done in the past for people that want 2 meters on a property. They require 1 per residence and that's it. If they so elect to go beyond that, they can do so. Ursula said, had Greta known they were going to install a demand meter, she would have gotten the electricity separated, the office from the rest of the house. She was planning on doing it but no one gave her the opportunity to do so. You just went onto the property and did it without any notification and she's been paying it for years. Edie said she it would wise to have Jim Harvilla at the January Committee Meeting if that's ok with Council. Ursula asked how you can examine something if you don't know it's there? Why would Greta examine something, it's called being deceitful, not coming clean with what you're doing. President Miller said Edie would arrange for Jim Harvilla to come to the next Committee Meeting and hopefully he will be able to answer all of these questions.

**2014  
PROPOSED  
BUDGET:**

President Miller asked Edie to give Council the numbers for the 2014 Proposed Budget that was advertised. Edie said the total budget is in the amount of \$4,229,040.00, it is not raising electric but it is moving the debt service of 7.52% over to the general fund, making total taxes 16.25 mills, which is what they have been just all in the general fund instead of split. She said this amount is \$150,000.00 less than the 2013 budget. Harry Hefty made a motion to approve the 2014 budget, seconded by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeager-	- no	(She didn't feel it was right that every employee in the Borough of Watsonstown got an increase to their salary but 1 person)
Hefty	- yes	Miller - yes
Marshall	- yes	Folk - yes
Young	- yes	

Motion carried by majority vote.

**TAX  
ORDINANCE  
2013-04:**

President Miller said the 2013-04 Tax Ordinance sets the tax at 16.25% general mills. Jack Marshall made a motion to approve Tax Ordinance 2013-04 as advertised. A second was given by President Miller. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.



**RESOLUTION  
2013-07R  
POLICE  
PENSION:**

Edie said the resolution states there is no contribution for the year 2014 to the police pension. Pat Yeager made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-07R, seconded by Harry Hefty. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**URSULA  
HARMON -  
STREET  
CONDITIONS:**

Ursula Harmon of 40 Main Street said she has called the Borough office more in the last two weeks than she has in 27 years. She takes care of her sister, who depends on her to get her out of bed every morning because she has no one else to do it. When she went around the corner at Ron Keiser's, she almost slid into the fire hydrant. She said she was going the speed limit of 25 mph and nobody at the Borough was working. President Miller asked her again what day it was, to which Ursula said it was the Monday after Thanksgiving that we had ice. Ursula said the streets weren't salted because that day was a holiday for the Borough. She said according to her calendar, it wasn't a holiday but she guessed everyone goes by a different set of rules. She said she was informed that it is the police department's job to check the streets. She said whoever was on duty apparently didn't do it. If she had smashed her car up, she has no other means of transportation, which means she can't get her sister up out of bed in the morning. Ursula said she called again today because she went up to her sister's yesterday afternoon and her lane still wasn't plowed. Her sister has filled out a paper for special needs because she is physically handicapped. She said 10<sup>th</sup> Street was plowed but her sister's lane was plowed shut so she had to go pretty fast to get up over the snow and almost slid into the telephone pole. She said she called 911 and they got the "devil" but they were informed by Edie to call 911 so they can call the police department. Edie said yes, that was correct if they weren't in the office. Ursula said it was Sunday. 911 said they didn't know why they were calling and Ursula said that's what they were informed to do. She was at her sister's house for over an hour when they were plowing yesterday between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets and instead of plowing her out, they still hadn't plowed her out. She called 911 again and again was given the devil for calling. She lives next to Rick Buck and the sidewalks were not clean this morning. Ursula said she is a business owner and deals with a lot of elderly and handicapped people, people with walkers and scooters. The sidewalk was impassable. The sidewalk at the Watson Inn is impassable. The curb cuts were not cleaned out so she called at lunch time and still today, she checked when she came to tonight's meeting, the curb cut out was not clean. Her sister came down to her salon today for a haircut and Ursula had to go shovel the sidewalk cut out because it wasn't

taken care of. She said she shouldn't have to do it. Chief Derr told her someone was driving around looking at the streets and checking sidewalk conditions. She said they apparently need a pair of glasses or they are blowing it off, she doesn't know what the problem is. She wants to know the job descriptions for Edie, the police department and the public works director because she doesn't know who to call to complain to. She hopes she never has to do this again. She said it's an embarrassment. She has had ladies who have walked onto the street and could have gotten killed because the sidewalks were impassable. She said she walked in the street the other day because the sidewalks were impassable. Ursula said it is a disgrace that people would leave their sidewalks like that and the Borough allows it to happen. President Miller said the Borough doesn't allow it to happen. Edie said Ursula had called last week about the sidewalk, Chief Derr was working on Christmas, Wade was on duty and he went up and dealt with the problem. Edie said she was in a meeting when Greta called on Friday. With the snow coming, Edie said she made sure Scott knew that Greta was a handicapped person that would need plowed out. In fairness to both Scott and herself, she talked with Scott and he was well aware of it. She and Scott talked again today after receiving a call from Ursula and he checked with the guys again. The guys said they had taken care of it the way they have every other year. Scott is well aware that there is a form filled out in the Borough office. The day Ursula had trouble, Edie had told Ursula if the streets are slippery when the Borough employees are not working, be it a holiday, the weekend or when everyone has gone home for the day, a police officer on duty would call Scott to let him know the streets need salted and/or plowed. Edie said if Ursula had a problem getting to her sister's, she was to call 911 and they would make sure Scott or the police were called. Edie stressed again, only when the "we" were not working. She did tell Ursula that she would talk to Scott, though he was off several days that week. They talked when he got back and they've talked a lot about this situation. The sidewalks, again this morning she talked with Chief Derr and he sent an officer out right away, she thought it was around 8:00 a.m. President Miller asked if the sidewalks were cleared now, to which Ursula replied that they weren't clear and her sister got stuck on the sidewalk today. Regarding the curb cuts, President Miller asked whose responsibility they were, the Borough's or the resident's. Chief Derr said throughout the day, a number of people called him that were very ignorant and it was unnecessary. He said maybe people think because they are the police, they have a right to be ignorant to them. He said "we" have a few problems with the snow. A number of people had notices put on their homes and businesses letting them know they have 24 hours to clean up or they will arrest them for it. He said there is an elderly woman on Main Street, who has a problem with it because she can't go out and clean it but according to our ordinance, the police department will go arrest her tomorrow if she doesn't clean it. He said he can't help it that she's in her 80's and has no one to clean her

sidewalk. Chief Derr said he has no problem issuing citations for everything out there, that's what they get paid for. Ursula said that was a really good attitude to have. Chief Derr asked if that wasn't what Ursula wants done. Ursula said the police department picks and chooses who they enforce the law with. She asked why she has to shovel Rick's sidewalks. She said her son shovels Rick's sidewalks every time it snows because of her customers. She was zoned to be there and she has the right, like every other business, to have clean sidewalks. Her kids can't get across the street to the bus stop because they can't get through the snow at the Watson Inn. Ursula said the Watson Inn has plenty of workers over there. Chief Derr said this is the one issue that they need to discuss. Chief Derr said the crosswalks downtown used by the handicapped, the responsibility is whose, the Borough's or the businesses. He said people clean their sidewalks, then we plow and we push it right back up. Even here on 4<sup>th</sup> Street when people want to go to the Borough building and the post office, people have to walk through the snow. So the question comes down to who is responsible for it, the business with the sidewalk or is it the Borough that needs to re-open those crosswalks. Solicitor Tira said if it's the sidewalks, it's the responsibility of the property owners. Pat Yeager said where she lives, there are steps that go down to the street then there's the street and it's on a corner. So when the plow comes around, there space between the steps and where you can get to the street. Pat asked if she was responsible to shovel that area and keep it clean. She said the snow is off her sidewalk, it is on the street. Solicitor Tira said if it's the corner, it's Pat's responsibility. Pat said she clears the steps, which belong to her, and the sidewalk but she is talking about the street. She asked Solicitor Tira if it was her obligation to shovel the street so people can get from her sidewalk to the street. She said it's just like Ursula said, the plow comes along and pushes snow to the corner that people have to walk through to get to her sidewalk. Ursula said Rick Buck is the property owner and he needs to keep the corners cleaned out. Pat said she was sure he wasn't the only property owner that isn't. Ursula said what it really comes down to is nobody wants the people in Watsontown to call and complain. If we call and complain, we're chewing your butts out and being bad citizens. She asked what did we hire you for, what are we paying you for if we can't call and complain. She said she wasn't nasty to Chief Derr, she was asked how she felt and she told him. Chief Derr said he would address this issue. He said he never said Ursula was being nasty, although last week she was going to throw dog feces at the Borough building. She said she was going to put it in a bag and sit it at the steps because she had to walk in the street in the dark with her dogs and she left it go for 2 days and those sidewalks were impassable and where was your police officer? Chief Derr said that Ursula says the police department needs to deal with it, so they write citations then Ursula say he has a bad attitude. The Chief said unfortunately, that is the only option he has. Ursula said she would clean the sidewalks for the lady on Main Street free

of charge. She asked the Chief to get her the name and the phone number and she would call her, she is not above doing it. The Chief said he appreciated that but the police department only has one option, telling people to get it cleaned up and if they fail to do it, the only option they have is to arrest you. He said there is no other plan, it is a fine up to \$600.00. Janet Rump asked whose responsible for cleaning out the fire hydrants. President Miller said basically if it's on your property, it's your responsibility. The fire company doesn't go around cleaning snow away from fire hydrants. Chief Derr said as far as someone from the 911 center giving you (Ursula) a hard time, he said he has been here going on 38 years on January 8<sup>th</sup>, since he has been here, the phone number to reach the Watstown Police Department has never changed. It is 570-742-8771, it has been the number to the communication center for 33 years and probably before that. He said the same person that answers 911, will be the person who answers at 570-742-8771. That number has always been there. When you call the Borough office, sometimes there's only one officer on duty so you might not get anyone. The Chief said he knows that when he can't get ahold of his guys in the office, he needs to call 570-742-8771 to reach them. The phone number has never changed and has been in effect for possibly 40 years. Pat Yeager said in Ursula's defense, she called that number once and would never call it again. Chief Derr said if there is a problem with someone at the communication center, he will talk with them and make sure our citizens are treated right. Ursula said she shouldn't have to call 911 to get results. She said yesterday when the lane wasn't plowed open. They know Greta is a handicap person that has been ill of late. They had to call 911 to get an ambulance the other week. If the ambulance would have had to get through, they wouldn't have gotten through very good. President Miller asked if getting Greta's street opened up was a priority and Edie said there is a list and though Scott isn't here to defend himself, she spoke to him about this on Friday and she spoke with Scott again today. The Mayor asked if the crew knew what the procedures were, to which Edie answered yes. Edie said Scott went to whoever was plowing Saturday and Sunday and talked to them. She offered to talk with Scott about it again but she doesn't feel that she, Scott nor Dennis dropped the ball. Pat said she understood Ursula's frustration and possibly the miscommunication but she asked if Ursula wanted the police department to knock on doors and warn people because the procedure is sending a letter. Ursula said no, but 2 days last week she walked and the sidewalks were a mess and she left it go for 2 days. Their 24 hours were well passed so then when she called she is being such a bad citizen because she was calling and complaining. The sidewalks were solid ice and she had to walk in the street, what if she would have gotten hit by a car that morning. She said people could at least throw some salt out and just like the elderly woman, Watstown should step up to the plate and help someone like that, but we don't do that. She asked why can't we go help somebody that needs help? Why should that elderly

woman have to it herself? President Miller said her husband cleaned out 4 of their elderly neighbors and had he known this elderly lady needed help, he would have gone down to her house and done it for her. I'm not sure about her neighbors but we help each other in our neighborhood. Ursula said that's not the way it is all over. President Miller said "that's sad" but if that's the problem, they will take their snow blower down and clean it up for her. It is what they do in their neighborhood and President Miller said it's sad and obviously she can't do it herself, somebody should help her. She said we've got boy scouts who would help. Pat Yeager said unfortunately, the Borough cannot take care of everybody so the only thing that she would suggest Council look at is possibly a list of names of elderly property owners and handicap individuals that need the help. We can give the list to the boy scouts or somebody that's looking for a project. Edie said we used to do that years ago, she believed a list of residents was given to the boy scouts. Edie also said to Ursula that she thought she and Chief Derr were very accommodating last week. She got the first officer she could find, Officer Danley, who said he would go right up to where the ice was. Later that afternoon, Chief Derr said the ice was taken care of, Wade took care of it right away this morning. Edie said even with regards to the street, she, Scott & Chief Derr were right on it. She apologized that Greta wasn't plowed out and they talked about it on Friday and they honestly thought it would be taken care of. Edie said she would address it again. Ursula said "I've come to voice my complaint so now I'm a bad person because I did that and now I've got a big black "X" over my head". Chief Derr said he didn't recall anyone saying that she was a bad person. He said people called, to which Ursula said "people chewed your behind out and you were looking right at me Denny, I mean how obvious is it"? President Miller told Ursula she was responding to her but not necessarily that she was a bad person. President Miller said she remembered Ursula complaining about Rick Buck's sidewalks a few years ago and he needs to keep his sidewalks clean. Ursula said he doesn't. President Miller said maybe the boy scouts need sent down to him. Pat Yeager said it's hard to find kids to shovel snow anymore. There were numerous people talking regarding various issues.

**SNOW  
REMOVAL  
ON ABANDONED  
PROPERTIES:**

Chief Derr said another issue to be discussed was snow removal on abandoned properties, we have a number of people who have abandoned their homes so we have that problem. Chief Derr said a person was upset because they couldn't order the Borough crew to clean up a property, he explained he didn't have that authority to order the Borough crew to clean up property but would bring this to the attention of Council. Chief Derr asked someone to make a decision regarding abandoned properties. Solicitor Tira said they should be cited for failure to clean their property and when they don't clean it, then the Borough can direct the crew to clean it and then bill the time spent by the Borough crew to eventually get a lien against the property and try to force a sale. Pat Yeager said, chances

are if the property has been abandoned, it will need cleaned right away. The Mayor said it is similar to the procedure of cutting grass. Chief Derr said if the truth be known, the snow issue on abandoned properties is with the same people that have grass cutting issues. Chief Derr said he wanted Council to be aware of the problems the snow fall caused, a lot of people were upset today, he did put an officer out there, people were notified. Notices were put on doors but they couldn't be cited and we cannot send out the Borough crew to clean it up either so people are going to be upset that we haven't handled things in the manner they want. He said another problem is when there is a second snow fall, which 24 hours do you go by and tonight we are supposed to get more snow. He just needs people to understand that once people are notified the only option is to overlook it or issue a citation to have access to that property. Pat and Chief agreed, it is still not going to make people clean their property and it will not happen overnight. Solicitor Tira said hopefully after enough fines, it would be taken care of. Chief Derr said some people are notified every 5 to 6 weeks to cut their grass and clean up their yard every year. President Miller said it's pathetic. Chief Derr said the other year, they sent out 87 certified letters telling people to do that.

**MORAN  
LOT ON ASH  
STREET:**

Sandy Hendricks asked how long Moran was given to clean up the "junk yard" on Ash Street. Edie said she talked with Jeff Kanezo today and he talked with Brad Ardnt at Moran. Jeff Stroehman is on vacation and is to be back next week. Brad wanted Jeff Stroehman to talk with Jeff Kanezo. Jeff Kanezo said Moran cannot use the vacant lot on Ash Street to store junk. Jaff Kanezo said as soon as he hears back from Jeff Stroehman, he would let her know so she could inform Council. The Mayor said the lot was supposed to be a "man-camp" and he's not sure the fence is in compliance with our ordinance, it's over 6 feet with razor wire on top. Jack Marshall asked if Moran wasn't going to build the man camp, to which the Mayor answered "who knows".

**COUNCIL  
RESIGNATIONS  
and  
RE-  
APPOINTMENT:**

Dave Powell spoke regarding the November 25, 2013 meeting. He said certain members of Council resigned and his name was mentioned as a possible candidate. He said for some reason, it just got washed over. And of course, Harry, who will be the next Borough Council President was re-elected. Dave said if there's 30 days to reappoint someone, why wasn't more consideration given to others who might have wanted to fill that position as opposed to "rubber stamping" it. President Miller said she couldn't answer that, she didn't think his name was just passed over. She didn't think a motion was made. As far as Harry being the next President of Council, that's Harry's thinking. The Mayor said he (Harry) does pull the strings around here. Dave Powell said he would have been very happy to fill that vacancy. President Miller said that was good to know because Council may have another vacancy soon and he would be kept in mind.

**COUNCIL  
BY-LAWS/  
PROCEDURES/  
POLICIES:**

Barb Pick of 206 East Ninth Street spoke in reference to Dave Powell's concern. She was at the last meeting and expressed many concerns she had and several of Council immediately justified things and she appreciated that. But when she got home, she realized the very first question she asked wasn't answered so she simply wanted to ask it again tonight. She asked does the Watsontown Borough Council have written by-laws and/or a policy/procedure manual. Do you have it so when new positions, like what happened at that meeting, you know how to do it? Solicitor Tira asked if she was referring to filling a vacancy. Barb said not only for that but is there a set of by-laws. Solicitor Tira said the Borough Code Book is what Council goes by but that may not be the same answer for every issue, he again asked if she was referring to vacancies. Barb said she thinks it's very important for a Borough to have a set of by-laws or a procedure policy so when things happen, be it vacancies or whatever, the citizens can look them over and see how our government works here. Solicitor Tira said there is nothing that mandates Council to do that but he is aware of other municipalities that have decided to set up certain procedures for vacancies on the Planning Commission and other things. He said they are not mandated to do that but they've chosen to do that. Solicitor Tira said in answer to Barb's question, he doesn't believe they have set by-laws here but not everyone does. Barb said her personal opinion as a citizen of Watsontown is that in the very near future, it be something the committee looks at. She continued, in the case of filling the vacant position, someone moved into a position, Harry, lost in an election by a considerable amount and there was a citizen that wasn't even entertained. Barb said that's not listening to what the community wants.

**CODE  
INSPECTIONS/  
CONDEMNED  
PROPERTIES:**

Ralph Heater spoke regarding inspection of rental properties. He has spoken to Edie about it but wants to make sure he understands it. When the inspection guy comes, you have to make sure your heat works and you have water, sewer and electric. He said you lose the guy because he didn't pay his gas bill and the heat gets shut off. The water got shut off because the sewer bill is past due, yet the Borough won't help him out and say the guy needs evicted. Ralph said he thought you paid to have properties inspected but now when there a problem and utilities are being shut off, it's ok for him to still live there. But yet, the utilities have to be hooked up in order for someone to move in. He said he called Light-Heigel with no resolve. He asked why can someone continue to live in a residence with no heat, no sewer and no water that's not fit for use. Harry said the property should be condemned and Ralph said "you're right but who's going to do it?" Pat and Solicitor Tira said Ralph didn't want his property condemned because Ralph would have to pay to have the property un-condemned. President Miller said Ralph just wants to get rid of the tenant. Ralph said he has been trying to get rid of his tenant. Ralph said he has a judgment against the tenant but the tenant keeps postponing the hearing

because he used to be a Deputy Sherriff and knows the rules and regulations and how to play the game. Pat Yeager said Ralph should remove the doors. Solicitor Tira said no advice on self- help would be given. Solicitor Tira said he has talked with Edie regarding the situation and he advised Ralph to go back to Light-Heigel and ask the code officer why something else isn't being done. Ralph said he had talked with Harry about the problem and was advised to come to Council, so he did. Ralph said they are paying \$50.00 to \$75.00 to have their places inspected and when they don't have one of their utilities, they shouldn't be able to live there. He said he has to worry about the first floor apartment if the pipes freeze. Ralph asked Edie if the electric gets shut off, they have 5 days to be out. Edie said the tenant has electricity and she talked with Jeff Kanezo today. He says there's nothing he can do. Edie said she thinks Solicitor Tira should talk with Jeff Kanezo. Solicitor Tira said he would if that was Council's desire. Edie confirmed Ralph's tenant is paying his electric but not paying for anything else. Pat Yeager asked Ralph if he's paid his rent and Ralph said "no". Ralph also said he has no sewer because he has no water to flush the sewer. Ralph said what he's looking at is that he's going to have a mess, yet the tenant keeps paying his electric. Ralph's point is that the town pays Light Heigel to inspect rental properties but nobody wants to do the code enforcing once they're rented. Ralph asked why he has to pay for his properties to be inspected just to verify he's got water, electric and sewer when the Borough doesn't care after they are in. He stressed that's his point of view. President Miller said Council understands his concern. She said Council would have Solicitor Tira speak with Jeff Kanezo. Council is in agreement with Ralph Heater. How can they continue to live there without the necessary utilities. Ralph gave Solicitor Tira the address of the property: 251 Dickson Avenue, Apartment #4. Ralph provided copies of all utility shutoffs for the Borough's record.

**BOROUGH  
WAGES/  
2014 PAY  
INCREASES:**

Buzz Reynolds said he thought he heard earlier in the meeting that everyone in the Borough got a raise except one person. He asked how much the raises are. President Miller said the police are according to their contract and the Borough worker's is according to their contract. She said Edie was given a raise, the office girls were given raises. Buzz asked how much they were for. President Miller said she didn't have the numbers in front of her, Edie would have the totals if Buzz wanted to check with her. Edie said Buzz got them under the Right to Know for 2013 because the budget hasn't been passed yet for 2014. Buzz said maybe he was wrong but in 2013 Edie made \$46737.60. He said it was confusing but in 2014, it goes to \$48,818.00, he asked if that was right? President Miller said for 2014 that was correct. Edie said the rest are lumped together. She said she has a separate line, the public works supervisor has a separate line. Buzz asked if Edie's raise was near \$2,000.00, to which President Miller answered "yes, probably". Someone said it was approximately 5%, Harry



Hefty said it was a cost of living adjustment. Buzz said Scott Winters went from \$47840.00 to \$48,000.00. Edie said he stayed the same and Harry Hefty said his wage didn't move. Harry said after 9 months, he was making more than the lady who has been her for over 17 years. President Miller said Scott was making more than his supervisor. Buzz asked if Scott was the only one that didn't get a raise, to which he was answered with "correct". The Mayor asked if there was a written policy that said Scott couldn't make more than his supervisor. Harry Hefty said no, but he knows when he was with the school district they dealt with discrimination issues between males and females. A woman after 17 years making less than a man after 9 months. Pat Yeager said that was the school district. Harry agreed but there are issues that get a little nervy. President Miller said Council was not going to get into personnel but Buzz's figures were correct.

**JASON KLING -  
EMA  
CERTIFICATION/  
QUALIFICATION  
POSSIBLE  
CORRECTION  
TO MINUTES:**

Jason Kling said he was never given a written notice but apparently he was removed as Watson's EMA Director. The Mayor said he sent an email to Jason when he was stationed in Arizona. Jason said from the minutes of your last Committee meeting dated November 25th, which he had Ralph Young read, President Miller said we had Jason Kling as EMA. The Mayor said he was not firefighter qualified and incomplete paperwork. Jason said he needed to set the record straight. After 21 years of being in fire service he wanted to make sure everyone was aware and everyone got his national credentials for his fire service and he is nationally recognized. The Mayor said he thought the minutes were erroneous and what was said had nothing to do with Jason's firefighting qualifications. The Mayor asked Jason if he was quoting him, he asked "what's it say" and asked Jason to read it. Jason read it again: President Miller said the Borough had Jason Kling as EMA. The Mayor said he was not firefighter qualified and incomplete paperwork. The Mayor said "it was not what I said and Mrs. Brooke can listen to the record and you'll find that I did not say firefighter qualified, you are not EMA qualified, and that's what I said and that's what I'll stick by and if you want to make a scene about this Mr. Kling, I will challenge you!". Jason replied "Mr. Mayor, I'm just proving that I am firefighter qualified". The Mayor said if otherwise, he would apologize to Jason in public. President Miller said it will be on the tape and Brendi will check the tape and if it's incorrect, we will change it. Jason said that was fine, he would like it to be corrected. He went on to say he was given a list of qualifications to stay on. The Mayor said he provided Jason a list of certifications. Jason asked if he could continue, to which the Mayor said "no you may not". Jason said he didn't want to get into an argument. The Mayor said Jason has been working on this ever since Harry Hefty promised Jason a position that he couldn't come through on. The Mayor said Jason has had his nose out of joint and it has not gone un-noticed by the Mayor and others at this table, thank you Mr. Kling. Jason asked President Miller if she wanted him to

continue or wanted him to leave. President Miller said he was to continue, Jason was a resident. Jason said actually he was not, he actually lives 2 houses outside the Borough, but he was the Borough's EMC. He said he wasn't sure what the Harry Hefty thing was about. Mayor Hontz said Jason was dismissed several years ago. Jason said that was not Mr. Hefty but God love the man, it was Mayor Brown. The Mayor said it was he who sent a letter to Jason while he was in training in Arizona and said that he was going to be replaced. Jason asked if he could continue, he was given a list of qualifications that he needed to continue being on the EMA. He said some of them he is not capable of getting because they have changed since he has been gone on multiple deployments for the Army, which most of you here are aware of. Those he must get through the county and coordinate with the county coordinator and he has done so and is just waiting for him to get the classes organized. The certificates he does have are enclosed if President Miller wanted to have them. The Mayor said "the EMA Director would like to have them also Mr. Kling". He said "you get affirmed by Council, you get appointed by the Mayor". Jason said at this point in time, it's a viewpoint, he just needed to clarify that he is firefighter qualified for the fire service and he just wants that said to set the record straight. President Miller said Brendi will go back and listen to the tape and if the Mayor was misquoted, we will certainly correct it. Jason said it is on a public website and just wants it corrected. The Mayor asked if Jason was done; Jason said "thank you Madam President". The Mayor said "now, I'll respond; why don't you stick around or don't you have the guts for it". He then told Jason to have a seat. Jason said "I'll be more than happy to stick around" to which the Mayor said "that's fine". The Mayor said he sent Jason a letter when he was training in Arizona in which Jason was informed that because of his absence, we needed to find and put someone in position of EMA Coordinator. That position went unfilled for some time until about a year ago when Mr. Winters appeared on the scene with EMA qualifications. He said he didn't know why she said you weren't firefighter qualified because that statement did not come from him. The tapes will verify that statement did not come from him. President Miller asked Mayor Hontz why he was pointing at her. The Mayor said because she was quoted as saying Jason wasn't firefighter qualified. President Miller and Jason said no, it was the Mayor who was quoted as saying it. The Mayor said that was erroneous. President Miller said we will check it out and if that is incorrect, we will fix it. The Mayor said he apologized if Jason did not get his message. Jason said if the message was sent to Arizona, he would have never gotten it because he never did any training in Arizona. The Mayor asked Jason where he was then. Becky Hontz said they would provide a copy. Jason asked them to provide it because he never got it. President Miller said we were moving on. The Mayor said he wanted to apologize; Jason said if he didn't say it, he didn't have to apologize. The Mayor said he wanted to apologize to Jason if he misled him. Mr. Winters

is fully EMA certified and that's the only question he had when he handed Jason the list of certifications he had. He said up until now he had been considering Jason as an Emergency Management Deputy. The Mayor said obviously he and Jason have a problem and he doesn't see that happening. Jason said he had no problem, he just wanted to set the record straight with being a fire fighter. The Mayor disagreed and said he thought the two did have a problem. Becky Hontz said Jason being fire fighter qualified was not said that night. Jason said he didn't know, he wasn't at the meeting. Becky Hontz said she was here. Jason thanked President Miller and said goodnight to everyone.

**INDUSTRIAL APPRAISAL:**

Edie said she called Industrial Appraisal. She provided a list to them, minus the sewer plant. They were hoping to have a price today but didn't. Edie said she would definitely have a price for the January 6<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. President Miller said even though Pat Yeager will be gone from Council, the matter will not fall by the wayside.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

Pat Yeager asked who was on the Personnel Committee now. The Mayor asked why it changes weekly. President Miller said the Committees have not been changed yet; they will be changed in January. She said she removed herself from the Personnel Committee months ago; Jack and Harry have been handling things. Pat said there was a personnel issue and Dan Folk was present; the Mayor said he was there as a part of the committee. The Mayor asked her to explain that; he asked if she makes the appointments. President Miller said "I do". The Mayor asked whether Mr. Folk was appointed to the Personnel Committee. President Miller said "not by me". She said "I didn't replace me with anybody". Pat said it must have been the future president. The Mayor asked whether it was done by acting president Hefty.

**VFIS - SAFETY SEMINAR:**

The Mayor said he, the Emergency Management Coordinator and the police department were invited by the fire department to attend the VFIS – Safety Seminar for highway safety. It was very well attended and the material he got out of it was outstanding and he would recommend we have a more focused meeting from the Volunteer Fire's Insurance Society, whose goal is to lessen the number of fatalities and injuries by emergency responders. It's not only firefighters but it includes borough workers, police officers, EMTs and EMS. He said it was very informative. At the January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting he will extend an invitation to the newly elected officials to attend an educational experience similar to this seminar, relative to emergency responses. Edie said she had paperwork for Council people; she asked if the Mayor had EMA. The Mayor said it was regarding their legal responsibility as far as their emergency responses go; it will be held on January 19, 2014. He said he will have more information to hand out at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**SNOW  
REMOVAL:**

Pat Yeager said snow removal will begin tomorrow. Edie said when Ursula called today she was upset because Scott had the crew cleaning up here at the Borough office. Edie said the snow clean-up has always been done here first because of the police station and the Borough office. Tomorrow, Scott has the signs up and is planning to start snow clean-up and removal in the business district. Pat also said Scott had taken care of the Borough office area because of tonight's meeting and the parking that is required.

**CURBING -  
LIBERTY STREET  
HICKS ALLEY:**

Edie said Pat Ward got back to Scott regarding curbing on Liberty Street and Hicks Alley. Pat said she thinks they are planning to flatten the & curbing, similar to how they do speed bumps. President Miller said she hoped the work wasn't going to be done until spring. Edie said she thought Pat Ward had said they were going to lower the curb to 3 inches high. Edie said she would provide Council with a copy of the drawing at the next meeting.

**SINK HOLE -  
CANAL STREET**

Pat Yeager said she hopes Council continues to pursue Canal Street from Brimmer to 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Streets and the deficiencies there. She said there is a sink hole there that is ponding and freezing. She said it should not be left go for 2 years and 1 month and then have the Borough have to clean it up. She said it needs fixed now. Solicitor Tira said he believed what Pat was saying it that some of this stuff is not covered under the extended warranty so it should be addressed as it develops. He said some of that stuff is outside the extended warranty. Pat said it needs continually looked at.

**EASEMENTS:**

Edie said Solicitor Tira has 1 easement and she has 4 easements that they are working on with Delaware Township. The easements are for pump station and property right of ways.

**NEW PUMP  
STATION -  
POSSIBLE  
COSTS:**

Edie said she received a call from Bill Michael regarding the new pump station, which is a project cost of approx. \$1.2 million dollars. They may come up \$30,000.00 short to run the new line from the new pump station between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Street, by Jasper. Bill asked Edie to at least get the issue on the books. He confirmed with Edie that the Borough still has sewer money. He's not asking for the money tonight, he just wants us to know that they might need it.

**2014  
MEETING  
DATES:**

Edie provided Council with the 2014 meeting dates. She said when a meeting fell on a holiday she made it on Tuesday. She said nothing has been advertised yet but once Council reviewed and approved the dates they would need advertised. After some review and discussion, Harry made a motion to approve and advertise the 2014 meeting dates. A second was made by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER & ALTERNATE:**

Edie said Council had asked her to check with George Meyers as to whether the Borough needed a Sewage Enforcement Officer, and we do. George said we need to appoint Jim Sanders because we have a few on lot systems and in the event of a problem, DEP requires a Sewage Enforcement Officer. Harry made a motion to appoint Jim Sanders as Watsonstown’s Sewage Enforcement Officer and appoint Kenneth Young as the alternate. A second was given by Pat. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ELECTRIC ORDINANCE:**

President Miller said Council was tabling the electric ordinance. Solicitor Tira said it was still a work in progress, it was really not an ordinance and there’s still more that needs to go into it. He also feels it should be expanded and put into understandable terminology. He said Jim Harvilla is an extremely smart man but sometimes speaks a foreign language. Pat asked if the following could be added: at any time a new demand meter is attached to a business or residence, the homeowner or business owner be made aware prior to the installation. She said they should have to sign that they’ve received notification. Jack Marshall asked the following: if someone has a home and part of it is a beauty shop; he can see the beauty shop having a demand meter but why should the home be on the demand meter. Why can’t they have 2 meters because he has seen it in other towns. Solicitor Tira said he could talk with Jim Harvilla about how that works. Pat Yeager said to take Allen Neyhard for example: he doesn’t have people in his business 8 hours per day. Somebody might be at the house 1 or 2 times a week but he’s got a demand meter on his home for everything he does? Solicitor Tira said he could see the argument either way and he’s not the policy maker. Janet Rump said she walks town all the time and there’s a Psychotherapist with a shingle out and a photographer. She asked if someone is checking into these places to make sure they are paying their fair share as well as the other businesses. President Miller and Edie both said “absolutely”. President Miller said if they are aware there is a business, absolutely. She said our police officers and borough workers are out looking and if anyone knows of someone with a business, notify the Edie at the office. The Mayor said it would be

more of a planning/zoning issue, not a police issue. President Miller clarified that she didn't mean the police need to investigate but rather if they see someone putting a shingle out and starting a business in their home, it might be something they'd let Edie know about. Edie said the first thing she'll do is run a report of all the demand meters. Solicitor Tira also said home businesses don't always tell authorities what they are doing so communication between departments is the key. He has seen it between sewer connections, nobody knows there is a business because everybody assumes someone else knew. Ralph Young said if you're a beautician, that's going to affect your water bill because you will use more water in your beautician shop than you use in your home. Washing people's hair all the time and running dryers. He said that it should all be separate. Jack Marshall said he thought so too. President Miller said "there again, it's something that needs to be investigated". Jack said it's not fair to charge somebody a demand meter for the part that's their residence. Edie said "we know now, we are going to work on it, we will talk to Jim". President Miller said we will check with our engineer and see if it can't be broken out into 2 different bills. The Mayor said sewer bills for rentals are an issue too, though he's not sure how that works. Pat Yeager said the homeowner gets the bill and there's nothing that can be done about that. She said she knows homeowners have called and tried to get the bills sent to the tenant and MRSA won't do it. MRSA will only bill the homeowners. The Mayor said "the rate for rentals is different than they are for residents". Jack asked if the rent can be put up if they have to pay it themselves. The Mayor said he wasn't affected by this. Pat said if we go ahead with 2 meters as Jack suggested to look at, she thinks it has to go back to anybody, like an Ursula, they have to be given that option. You can't say "well you already had your demand meter so we not changing it". Edie said she and Jim Harvilla spoke with Greta twice and she does have that option. She said there is another side to this story and Jim Harvilla has been involved with Greta Kling and she understands what needs done. The Mayor said you'd have to re-wire the residence and that could be a major expense. Edie said that's why Jim Harvilla needs to come and talk with Council because nothing was done under the table and Jim has spoken to Greta. Pat said she just thinks everyone should be given that option.

**DONATION  
BY UNI-TEC:**

Edie said Uni-Tec made a \$200.00 donation on behalf of the Watsonstown Borough to the home delivered Meal Program for the Northumberland County Agency on Aging for Christmas. She has sent a thank you.

**GREENWAYS  
REPORTS:**

Edie said when she and the Mayor met with Tom Grbenick, he was to going to get prices on printing the big report. She said the Borough can get 10 copies of the Greenway Report, 2 sided, full color, laminated front, back and bound for \$330.99 or the same thing, just 1 report for \$55.00. She said it's up to Council, she does believe a bound copy is needed. She

has a copy that she printed from her printer, held together by a clip that probably won't hold up over time. Harry asked if a digital copy was available if someone wanted it. Solicitor Tira suggested Edie get Tom's permission to distribute the digital copy. The Mayor said he was hoping Council would agree to more than one so a copy could be placed at the Montgomery House Library, others thought that was a good idea. Harry said we should get 2 copies, 1 for the Borough and 1 for the library. Edie said it would be \$110.00. Jack Marshall asked if a portion of the Greenways Project could be done. The Mayor said it's a concept and yes, the project can be broken down. There are grants coming out in the spring that we can apply for. He's not sure what's all involved but he recommends consulting Tom Grbenick regarding the process. Tom may be interested in helping the Borough write segments of the project and writing grants. After some discussion regarding the project, it was agreed to purchase 2 copies, one for the Borough and one for the library. President Miller said if additional copies are needed in the future, they can be purchased as that time. Solicitor Tira said we are to be careful who the copy is loaned out to, it may never get returned. There was concern for the copy at the library and whether it is only able to be viewed and not taken from the library.

**GIFT CERTIFICATES:**

Edie said in the past, a \$25 gift certificate was given to all employees of the Borough, including Sonny Moser and the crossing guard. Pat Yeager asked if that includes "all" employees or just certain ones. Edie said all employees and management. A motion was made by Ralph Young, seconded by Jack Marshall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CLASS FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

Edie said the Borough often sends newly elected officials to the PSAB class. She has the information and will see that Dan Folk and Janet Rump both get it. The Mayor asked that he get the information as well.

**POLICE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:**

Pat asked how the police Christmas program was going this year. Chief Derr said it was going pretty well and he has almost 70 families right now, with 120 children. Donations have been coming in as well as toys that have filled up the police cruiser. It has worked out very well this year. The Mayor said he could vouch that the Chief has been very busy. Janet Rump said she saw the Chief at Walmart with the red hat on and the carts

were full. Council agreed, Chief Derr does an excellent job with the Christmas program.

**CHRISTMAS  
DISPLAY  
REPAIRS:**

Ralph Young commended the Mayor for his work on the Christmas display that was in need of repair. The Mayor said the greenery needs work, it has outgrown the area.

Pat thanked the residents who have been coming to the meeting and allowing her to serve on Council. She said she hoped the public has not been too disappointed in her. She is turning the reigns over to someone she has known all of her life whom she thinks is a good person to come in. Her advice to Dan and Janet both is “don’t be a yes man, don’t be a lap dog, think for yourself and ask the questions”. She said “these questions are not stupid, ask and ask and ask until you understand what they are telling you and you have it straight in your head that that’s what you want to do because it’s not about the 6 people that sit around this table, it’s about everybody that lives in this town”. She said “so it can’t be just what you want”. She said she thinks Harriet has been a good president and said Harriet has said to her on several occasions in the past, before this year even, she has taken the job as Council President simply because no one else wanted it. Pat said she would advise as to “who you might want to put in there because weight your options”. She said “the devil you do, the devil you don’t”. President Miller personally thanked Pat for her service and the crowd followed with a round of applause. Pat said she will be working with Edie on the taxes.

**GOOD JOB -  
BOROUGH  
CREW:  
EMA  
FUNDS:**

Edie said she a resident came in today commending the Borough crew for good job they did over the weekend on the Borough streets.

Edie said the Mayor asked about the EMA funds and whether they were going back into the EMA account. She said the supply end, any supplies used for cleanup, those funds are going back into EMA account but any money paid towards wages is not. She used the example: if a red light goes down and an electrician goes out, that reimbursement gets put back into the wage line item for the electrician. She said any wages go back into wages but supplies go back into EMA.

**4<sup>th</sup> of JULY  
INFORMATION:**

Edie told the Mayor to see her after the meeting because she had the 4<sup>th</sup> of July information he requested.

**INVESTIGATION:**

Pat said there was an investigation that was done and paid for by the tax payer’s money. She said they received the results of the investigation on September 18, 2013 and she is now going off of Council and Council has never discussed the investigation. She was part of the initial investigation which started in May. She said she thinks that is horrible but maybe that was the initial intent because she is not included in everything lately.



**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Pat requested an Executive Session for personnel issues.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being nothing further to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer