

**Watsonstown Borough  
Committee Meeting  
March 28, 2016**

**OPENING:** The March 28, 2016 Watsonstown Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held at the First Lutheran Church, 401 Main Street Watsonstown.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kevin Mertz, Becky Hontz, Pat Yeager, Hal Crozier, Rene Toro, Barb Diehl, Brent Frey and Erica Frey.

**BARB DIEHL & RENE TORO - 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY:** Barb Diehl spoke on behalf of WABA. They need Main Street closed for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. The passing of the American Flag will begin at 9:30 am and the parade should be done by 11:30 am. Barb will apply for the parade permit. Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the request. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Barb Diehl also requested the Borough pay for the evening band, which is the Frank Wicker Band at a cost of approx. \$1,000.00. She also asked that \$2,000.00 be put into the 4<sup>th</sup> of July account to pay for the other bands scheduled for that day. She said they shouldn't have a lot of expenses this year, they have trophies and metals left from last year. A motion was made by Greg Miller, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to approve the request. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

The Mayor asked about the use of a stage by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee; Ken Hollenbach spoke on behalf of the fire department and said they are

not using the fire department's stage. Rene said they are borrowing Dewart's stage.

President Rump asked Jay to check with the Public Works Department to install lighting on the pool building for Music/Movies in the Park.

**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE:**

nothing to report

**CEMETERY  
COMMITTEE:**

nothing to report

**ELECTRIC  
COMMITTEE:**

nothing to report

**INSURANCE  
COMMITTEE:**

nothing to report

**INSURANCE  
WEBINAR:**

President Rump said an insurance webinar will be held on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 from noon to 1 pm in Council Chambers. All are welcome to attend.

**PARKS &  
RECREATION:**

Ken Hollenbach said he sent a letter to Pat Betz of Warrior Run Little League and the Boy Scouts at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street Church to request help in fixing up the ballpark and dugouts. Many mentioned of the field being used.

President Rump spoke of a downed tree along the fence near the ballfield at the park. She asked that it be trimmed and removed from the fence.

**PERSONNEL  
COMMITTEE:**

nothing to report.

**PROTECTION  
TO PERSONS  
& PROPERTY:**

Mayor Hontz announced the Protection to Persons & Property meeting on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 7:30 PM. He would like to reach out to the community and if residents have issues to call the Borough office and the message would be relayed to him so he can have the committee look at those issues.

**STREETS &  
HIGHWAYS:**

nothing to report

Pat Yeager of 214 Liberty Street spoke regarding street opening fees. She said some surrounding communities are now charging a \$100.00 fees to open the street and also charging \$25.00 for a 3x5 section and additional fees for everything beyond that. Solicitor Tira said it was a "degregation

fee” (a charge to help with the upkeep of streets) which is addition to having to repair the street. Solicitor Tira said he has heard that street repair problems have been a North Central PA problem.

Pat Yeager also spoke regarding the dip on Main Street. Borough Manager Jay Jarrett said he was cc'd on an email from MRSA asking the contractor to come back to do a final repair; the plants start to make amesite the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>. George Meyers of MRSA had asked the contractor to come back with cold patch until the amesite plants open. Jay said someone was here a couple weeks ago and patched up the edges. Many commented regarding the street.

**WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE:**

nothing to report

**CERTIFICATES:**

The Mayor said he contacted Kelly at Medley of Memories and he is getting (2) certificates; one for the Boy Scouts and one for the Girl Scouts for he and Janet to sign.

President Rump had spoken to the mother of the Girl Scout; she will be home from college in June; she may attend a meeting; she will receive her certificate from the Girl Scouts on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Janet will make contact and the girl may come to give a brief presentation.

**SNYDER &  
KEIFABER –  
PROBATION:**

Chief Witherite said Officers Snyder and Keifaber have met their 6 month probation as of today. He said it's Council's pleasure whether to take them off probation or to extend it another 6 months. Solicitor Tira said under Civil Service rules a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of 12 months of probation. Once they become permanent employees, they gain Civil Service protection; if after 12 months Council fails to take action, they automatically become permanent employees. The Solicitor said he didn't think there was any change in compensation once they become permanent.

The Mayor thanked the Police Department for their help on Saturday with the 5K.

**CHIEF'S  
SERVICE:**

The Mayor also said Chief Witherite has just completed his first year of service. He said it has been a successful and productive year.

**PART-TIME  
EMPLOYMENT:**

Jay said he has interviewed (2) people for part-time employment and a 3rd is someone who has worked for the Borough previously. Jay said he made it clear that these were “as needed positions” and there was no guarantee

of hours throughout the summer; mow grass, cut weeds, cut brush, whatever we need them to do as we need them to do it. They are:

Todd Lytte  
Lori Schaffer  
Zack Miller

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller, to hire the 3 on a part-time, as needed basis for Public Works at a rate of \$8.65/hour. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**GENERATORS:** Jay said we are not ready to do anything yet with the generators. He has the paperwork and has met with Ken Hollenbach and thinks maybe it could be a part of the next committee meeting on Thursday night. There are questions regarding size, etc. Jay hopes to have something ready to discuss at the next Council Meeting.

**CANAL BOAT LIGHTING BIDS:** The following is the results of the Canal Boat Lighting bids:

1. I. Ray Zimmerman, Hockley Hill Road, Turbotville, PA- \$12175.00
2. W.B. Electric, Inc., 1578 State Route 903, Jim Thorpe, PA - \$22,564.80
3. Lecce Electric, Inc., 1843 Liberty Drive, Williamsport, PA - \$17,700.00
4. K & N Electric, Inc., 1030 Walnut Street, Sunbury, PA - \$15,390.00

After a few questions and a brief conversation regarding the lighting, a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Joshua Fogelman to award the bid to I. Ray Zimmerman with the lowest bid of \$12,175.00 pending our engineers review. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- no	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Fogelman	- yes

Motion carried by majority vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Solicitor Tira requested an Executive Session following tonight's meeting for litigation matters. When asked, he said it was possible they would return to Public Session.

**BOROUGH  
MANAGER:**

Jay said the tractor has been repaired and returned to the Borough. Also, the Borough streets have all been swept. He said Spring Clean-up has been scheduled for the last week in April and today was the first day to be open until 5 pm at the Borough Building; we had 2 customers.

**QUESTIONS:**

Brent Frey asked if the Executive Session for litigation had anything to do with the lawsuit against the Borough. Solicitor Tira said they have different litigation matters to assess during Executive Session but they are not going to get into the details. Brent asked if there was a settlement as of today; Solicitor Tira said he couldn't speak to that.

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

Rene Toro said the next 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee Meeting will be April 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Watsontown Inn.

**INVOICE:**

The Mayor asked a question regarding the Solicitor's invoice.

**UPCOMING  
MEETINGS/  
EVENTS:**

President Rump mentioned upcoming meetings/events. Further discussion regarding Spring Clean-up took place.

**ADJOURN TO  
EXECUTIVE:**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:05 PM.

**PUBLIC  
SESSION**

The Council re-opened to Public Session at 8:27 PM.

**APPROVAL OF  
SETTLEMENT:**

A motion was made by Joshua Fogelman, seconded by Ken Hollenbach to approve the settlement between the Watsontown Borough and Scott Winters. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

A few comments followed.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business to come before Council , the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer