

Watsonstown Borough Council  
Budget Workshop  
November 19, 2014

- OPENING:** The November 19, 2014 Watsonstown Borough Council Budget Workshop was called to order by Council President Harriet Miller at 6:30 PM.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Members present: Harriet Miller, Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Janet Rump, Mayor David Hontz and Borough Manager Edie Moser
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Ken Hollenbach, Mary Phillips, Becky Hontz, Cindy Crozier, Sandy Hendricks, Kevin Mertz, Terry Kirchner, Amy Pitou, Buzz Reynolds and Viola Ranck
- 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET:** Edie told Council the paperwork they have in front of them reflects a 2 mill increase in real estate taxes and a 3.23% decrease in the electric rate for businesses. Edie said the electric figures have been verified with Jim Havrilla. She also went through the line items of different things Council has added and deleted.
- ELECTRIC BILLS:** At this time Mayor Hontz asked Edie what percentage of customers pay their electric bill at the West Milton State Bank. Edie said approximately 75 to 80%. To get an accurate figure a count would need to be done of all the bills and where they were paid. There was much discussion from members of the audience who did not identify themselves as to people paying at the bank versus paying at the office. Several suggestions were made as to the possibility of a drop box behind the borough building, asking West Milton State Bank to drop the monthly fee of \$100 dollars, etc. A question from the audience also was asked as to the possibility of online payment. Edie said at the present time customers can pay through Pay Pal but there is an additional charge to the customer. Kim Printzenhoff from West Milton State Bank has been in touch with Edie and they will be meeting to discuss various options the Borough may have. Edie said she will bring those options back to Council for their review. President Miller asked Edie if they had been hearing many complaints in the office concerning paying the bill there. Edie said they have not. Buzz stated he has heard comments in his restaurant that residents are not happy about it.
- TAXES:** At this time someone stated taxes have to be mailed in to which Pat Yeager, Tax Collector, said that is not true. She stated most residents pay their taxes during the discount period. After that time has passed she does change her hours.

**ELECTRIC  
BILLS:**

Again someone in the audience questioned the decision made by Council that electric bills cannot be paid at the West Milton State Bank after January 1, 2015. President Miller stated there was a problem with the late charge and the turn around time at the bank when the bill is due on the 25<sup>th</sup>. At this time Becky Hontz stood up and asked “Harriet tell the truth, the problem was with an employee, Lisa Davis”. President Miller asked her to please sit down. Mrs. Hontz stated Lisa Davis had been giving residents a break on late charges. President Miller stated, “that was a personnel issue and has been dealt with”.

Another resident said elderly people like the bank because they can drive up to the drive in and do not need to get out. Another resident then ask about a drive in box behind the borough building.

**2015  
PROPOSED  
BUDGET:**

At this time Edie asked Council if they had anything they would like to change, add or delete on the 2015 Proposed Budget. Hearing none, Edie told Council at this point the 2015 proposed budget is balanced. The total budget is \$4,180,607, a \$48,433 decrease from the 2014 budget. Real estate taxes have a 2 mill increase and electric rates for businesses will decrease by 3.23%. This proposed budget will be on the agenda for Committee Meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>. At this time Council can authorize the budget be advertised for public display if they choose.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Moser  
Borough Manager