

**Watsonstown Borough
Budget Workshop
November 19, 2015**

- OPENING:** Watsonstown Borough held its second Budget Workshop on Thursday, November 19, 2015 in Council Chambers. The workshop started at 6:30 pm.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Ralph Young, Harriet Miller, Harry Hefty, Mayor David Hontz, Chief Rodney Witherite, Consultant Chuck Beck, Jr. and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.
- Jack Marshall was absent.
- OTHERS PRESENT:** Ken Hollenbach, Virginia Wirth, Hal Crozier, Tom Hetherington and Cindy Crozier.
- The group went line for line over the budget as prepared by Chuck Beck. The following were items discussed:
- ELM/ASH:** It was decided that line item “transfer from Elm/Ash” would be removed from the budget.
- EMA – SAND BAGS:** Mayor Hontz spoke of a need for updated sand bags. There is \$4,000 allotted in the 2015 budget.
- CODIFICATION:** Chuck Beck asked when the last time was that the Borough had the codification of ordinances. He said we should research what Edie has done in the past. We will start with the newest ordinance and work backwards.
- 4th of JULY:** The amount allotted for the 4th of July was increased to \$10,000.00.
- GREENWAY:** It was clarified that Community Development was the Greenway – the Streetscape.
- SESQUI-CENTENNIAL:** A discussion took place regarding the Sesquicentennial celebration and what the committee has planned. A capital account will possibly be established in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range.
- BUILDING UPDATES:** It was decided \$15,000 would be allotted for building updates/renovations.

- SUGGESTIONS:** Chuck suggested the budget be looked at and discussed on a quarterly basis. Chuck also suggested that possible “overages” be brought to Council’s attention for approval beforehand.
- AUXILIARY POLICE:** Council decided that \$1200 would be kept in the budget for the auxiliary police.
- POLICE VESTS:** Chuck said the State will pay 50% for protective vests for the police department.
- REPAYMENT of UNIFORMS:** The 1 year repayment policy was discussed regarding police uniforms. The “general” uniform line item – 410.230 – was set at \$5000.
- GAS/OIL:** The line item for gas/oil – is going to be sorted out; gasoline for automobiles versus natural gas for heating.
- SUBURBAN PROPANE:** The Suburban Propane account and fuel policy for Borough vehicles will be adjusted.
- TASERS & GUN REPLACEMENT:** Chuck Beck said Tasers and gun replacement will be capital expenditures. Chief Witherite said the Borough currently has (6) SIG40’s that were purchased in 2012. Chuck suggested an inventory of guns; guns should be appraised before they are sold; anything worth over \$400 in value should be advertised. Chief Witherite asked for a complete overhaul of the department’s weapons.
- SMALL EQUIPMENT:** Small equipment purchases is to be increased by \$1000.
- CEMETERY WALL:** The amount set aside for the cemetery wall was decreased by \$2,500.
- PENSION:** A lengthy discussion took place regarding the investing of our pension funds.
- Chuck said he would make the above changes to the budget and it will need to be displayed for 10 days.
- WESTERN WORLD – INSURANCE:** A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Ralph young to approve the payment of \$15,054.00 to the Insurance Shop for the payment of the Borough’s professional liability insurance. A roll call was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**MID-STATE
PAVING:**

A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Ralph Young to pay two invoices to Mid-State Paving in the amount of \$23,198.48 for the 2015 paving project. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PART-TIME
POLICE
OFFICERS:**

A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve the hiring of Ashley Porchet and Joshua Laidacker as part-time police officers. Their hiring is pending their background check and Act 120 certification. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**DAMAGE TO
POLICE
DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Witherite said there was approx. \$2100 in recent damage to the police department. It was decided it would not be submitted to the insurance company.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Ralph Young, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn the Budget Workshop at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer