

**Watsonstown Borough
Committee Meeting
February 23, 2015**

OPENING: The February 23, 2015 Watsonstown Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was in held in Council Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Mayor David Hontz, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Acting Chief Richard Faux and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Mertz, Pat Yeager, Jeff Rachau, Becky Hontz, Mary Phillips, Cindy Crozier, Sandy Hendricks and Roxanne Foresman.

CEMETERY MONUMENT- ETTINGER'S: Janet Rump and Mayor Hontz recently met with Lynn at Ettinger's Landscaping regarding the Cronrath Monument at the cemetery. She passed out photos of the proposed landscaping and went on to explain the plants they intend to include. The landscaping was approved to be paid from the Perpetual Care in the amount of \$3,941.00. The breakout is as follows:

• Supply & install topsoil	\$ 210.00
• Plants per design/list	1393.00
• Planting-labor & guarantee	905.00
• Edging, weed spraying & mulching	460.00
• Outside circle brick edging	<u>973.00</u>
	\$ 3941.00

There are 4 jobs ahead of us so Janet asked if the proposal could be approved and signed so the Borough could be put on the list. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve Ettinger's proposal, as presented. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

AUDITOR: The Mayor said he's been recently read a statement from the Department of Community and Economic Development. He asked Harry Hefty how many years the Borough has used the same auditor. Harry said though we've had the same company, they've changed people. The Borough has only had one other auditor while he's been on Council. Per Mayor Hontz "the state recommends we change companies every two to three years and it might be in the interest of our well-being to keep that in mind". He

clarified the change of a firm (company); he encouraged Council to visit the website. After some discussion, it was concluded that Council could give thought to requesting audit proposals.

**4th of JULY-
GENERAL
ACCOUNT:**

The Mayor is concerned regarding the fluctuating balance for the 4th of July line item on the financial statements. Edie said she and Brendi would be glad to meet with him to explain the revenue versus the expenses regarding the 4th of July account.

**3rd STREET
PAVING:**

Dan Folk said the 3rd Street Paving issue is still being investigated.

**CIVIL
SERVICE:**

Acting Chief Rick Faux said the Civil Service recently met to review the 5 applications received. Of the five, four were approved to move forward with agility testing.

**CHIEF OF
POLICE:**

Someone asked about the status of the Chief of Police. Solicitor Tira said his starting date is contingent upon his successful completion of his physical, background check, etc.

**POLICE
PENSION:**

Jack Marshall said he expressed to Linda Culver's administrative assistant the Borough's concern with the state's proposed bill regarding revamping the Pennsylvania police and public works employees' pension. Jack said the present program the state has is unsustainable in the long term.

**SALT
STORAGE
SHED:**

Edie said she has specs from Penn Dot in case Council decides to use liquid fuels money for a salt storage shed; if liquid fuels money is not used, the Borough doesn't have to follow Penn Dot specs. She, Dan Folk and Ralph Young have talked and it would be good to get the salt out of the garage because the salt is damaging the blocks. Edie said she has the information for the Street Committee to look at when they meet.

**INT'L
PROPERTY
CODE
MEETING:**

Edie said she has things ready for Council as a whole or a committee; it was agreed she'd meet with the entire Council with information about the International Property Code. It was decided the meeting will be advertised for Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:00 pm. Edie will send an email as a reminder.

**PLANNING
COMMISSION-
NEW
MEMBERS:**

Edie said the Planning Commission currently has 2 vacancies. Monika Powell and Jeffrey Rachau have offered to fill those vacancies by serving on the Planning Commission. They will serve a 2 year term, 2015 and 2016. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to appoint Monika Powell and Jeffrey Rachau to the Planning Commission. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**AIR
COMPRESSOR:**

The old garage air compressor was listed on Municibid; 31 bids later, Toby Stahl won, paying \$360.00. He will be picking it up this week. Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to accept Toby Stahl's bid for the old air compressor. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

APPOINTED:

Edie presented Council with a list of people that were contacted and are willing to continue their service on the Planning Commission, Zoning Board and Civil Service. It was confirmed Ken Hollenbach will have to resign his position on the Planning Commission if he is elected to Council. Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to appoint the members as presented to Council. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

150 YEARS:

Janet Rump said in 2017, Watsontown will celebrate its' Sesquicentennial (150 year) anniversary. She asked if something could be put in the newsletter to ask interested people to come up with dates, fireworks, parades, historic walks, etc. for the celebration. Edie asked Janet to get something to Brendi and it will be put into the newsletter.

**PARKING
SOLUTION:**

Someone asked if the Borough has come up with any solutions to help residents when paying their electric bills. She spoke of 10 minute parking signs, someone else mentioned placement of a drop box out behind the office for electric bills. After further discussion, Harry Hefty made a motion to authorize Solicitor Tira to draft an ordinance establishing two 10 minute parking spaces, 1 on each side of East 4th Street; also authorizing the advertisement of said ordinance. The ordinance will be considered for adoption at the March 30, 2015 Committee Meeting. A second was given by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Solicitor Tira further clarified, “it’s 10 minute parking only; you could sit in the spot and eat a sandwich if you wanted to”.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Solicitor Tira said a brief Executive Session would follow tonight’s meeting for litigation. Edie said she needed an Executive Session to give a brief update on personnel.

GENERATOR:

Edie said there is an old generator at the garage that came out of the sewer plant. It is on the Borough end of the garage. They have looked into prices to get the generator hooked up at the Borough end of the garage. It will cost approx. \$2000.00 to buy a transfer switch to make it from a 3 phase generator to a 1 phase generator. Hunter Lomison does **not** recommend changing the existing generator from a 3 to a 1 phase but rather they suggest the purchase of a new one at approx. \$4000.00, similar to the one behind the Borough building. There was further discussion regarding transfer switches and a generator equipped for the entire garage. It was agreed that Edie should get more information.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING:

Edie said she was asked by Bruce Smith of the Chamber to attend leadership training, free of charge to the Borough. It is for 7 weeks beginning March 6th, it’s held on Friday’s and will last approx. 90minutes.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Ralph Young, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer