

**Watson town Borough  
Council Meeting  
February 13, 2017**

**OPENING:** The February 13, 2017 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Borough Building, 318 Main Street. The opening prayer was given by Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kevin Mertz, Russ McClintock, Virginia Wirth, Brent Frey, Erica Frey, Crystal Moyer and Rob Brown.

**APPROVAL Of MINUTES:** A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Greg Miller, to approve the January 9, 2017 Council Meeting minutes and the January 23, 2017 Committee Meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS & TRANSFERS:** A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Dan Folk to approve this month's bill and transfers in the amount of \$544,856.13. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**MRSA – George Myers:** George Myers spoke on behalf of MRSA regarding MRSA Board Member Compensation; five municipalities have voted to compensate members for attendance to MRSA meetings, one did not, that being Watson town. He hoped to answer questions that Council

**PAYMENT to  
MRSA BOARD  
MEMBERS:**

may have and hopes that Council will reconsider. After a lengthy discussion, including comments made by Harry Hefty, Solicitor Landon and questions asked by Brent Frey, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Ken Hollenbach, to pay board members. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**MRSA STIPEND  
PAID TO THE  
BOROUGH:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Ken Hollenbach , that any Borough employee who receives a stipend from MRSA for board member service, the payment is made to the Borough (payment for attending meetings during Borough hours). A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

George spoke in further detail regarding terms of members and when the compensation begins; Jay spoke to the same; Brent Frey asked a question; Ben Landon spoke to the question; Harry Hefty commented as well.

**THANK YOU:**

President Rump said the Borough was in receipt of a thank you from the Union County Sherriff's Office K-9 Unit.

**COMMITTEES:**

**FINANCE/  
ELECTRIC**

Harry Hefty has researched and said the Borough has 4 month's reserve in the Electric Fund; the "goal" is a 6 month reserve.

**CEMETERY:**

Ken Hollenbach said they are working towards getting cemetery fence restoration quotes.

**INSURANCE:**

nothing to report

**PARKS &  
RECREATION:**

Ken Hollenbach said he spoke to Jay about getting the Boy Scouts involved in a spring clean-up/community clean-up weekend at the parks.

**DEDICATION:** President Rump said the bench in memory of Kevin Johnson is being dedicated on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 1:00 pm.

**PERSONNEL:** Greg Miller said he and President Rump will be doing Jay's 1 year evaluation tomorrow.

**LIONS CLUB EASTER EGG HUNT:** Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the use of the park for the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt on April 8, 2017 from 9am to 1pm. The rain date will be April 15, 2017. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PROTECTION TO PERSONS & PROPERTY:** nothing

**STREETS & HIGHWAYS:** nothing

**WASTE MANAGEMENT:** nothing

**ORDINANCE 2017-02:** Jay said by approving Ordinance 2017-02, the Borough will be guaranteeing the loan for the Northern Neighbors project; George Meyers said it will allow them to transfer the assets and liabilities to Milton Regional Sewer Authority. Per Solicitor Landon, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to approve Ordinance 2017-02 and authorize the officers of the Borough to execute all necessary paperwork. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**NEW DPW TRUCK:** A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Ken Hollenbach approving the purchase of the 2017 Ford F-350 at a cost of \$46,269.93 for the Public Works Department. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Jay said the new truck will replace the 2000 service truck which could certainly be sold as is.

President Rump said the new police vehicle has arrived.

**DPW WALL REPAIR:**

President Rump read the following bids for the DPW wall repair:

<b>Joe Davis Masonry LLC</b>	<b>\$4,900.00</b>
<b>McBryan Contracting</b>	<b>\$7,130.00</b>
<b>JS Williams &amp; Son</b>	<b>\$5,870.00</b>

Per Jay, the windows were eliminated from the project; the garage door will be handled by Buffalo Valley Door Service. Ken Hollenbach made a motion to go with Joe Davis Masonry at a cost of \$4,900.00; Dan Folk seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BRUCE REARICK-SERVICE AGREEMENT:**

Dan Folk made a motion, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve an agreement between Bruce Rearick and the Borough of Watsontown to provide electrical training for (3) Borough employees at \$500 per module, not to exceed \$7,000.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**UNI-TEC AGREEMENT – BOAT RAMP:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve an engineering agreement with Uni-Tec in the amount of \$26,500.00 for the boat dock grant. Jay said the Borough’s portion of the project is approx. \$32,000.00 and this \$26,500.00 goes towards that amount. He reminded Council of the excellent job Uni-Tec did with the grant application itself. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**MUNCY BANK  
AUTHORIZED  
SIGNERS:**

A motion was made by Greg Miller, seconded by Dan Folk to remove Harriet Miller and Ralph Young as authorized signers at Muncy Bank and named Janet Rump and Jay Jarrett as authorized signers. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CLOTHING  
DONATION  
BOX**

The Borough is in receipt of a request from the Watsontown Guild to place a clothing donation box in the Canal Boat parking area. After a lengthy discussion about placement, maintenance and precedence, the request was tabled.

**FREE HOME  
REPAIR:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to help publicize a free home repair program to be held June 18th-24<sup>th</sup> in the Watsontown area by putting the information in with the newsletter. The program is being cosponsored by the Watsontown Alliance Church and the Northumberland County Area Agency of Aging. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**SALE OF  
JOHN DEERE  
TRACTOR:**

After a brief discussion, Dan Folk made a motion seconded by Greg Miller to advertise the sale of the 1993 John Deere tractor and accessories as they are surplus property of the Borough and sold as one group. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADVERTISING:** Jay said the Borough will use the following places to advertise:

- Standard Journal newspaper
- Municibid
- Auction.zip

**ELECTRIC  
BILL LATE  
CHARGES:**

The Borough is in receipt of a request from Catherine Hastings to forgive a late charge on her electric bill. She mailed her bill to 318 Main Street instead of PO Box 273. Harry Hefty spoke to the request and said it should be spoke to in greater length at a committee meeting. Many people talked regarding the issue. Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller to deny the refund of the late charge. A roll call vote was taken:

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

**WRAFD  
CARNIVAL:**

Harry Hefty made a motion to approve the WRAFD's use of the park from 6/6/17 through 6/21/17 for their annual carnival. The carnival is 6/12/17 through 6/17/17. They also asked for the curfew to be extended. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the request. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- abstain	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes		

**PARADE:** Ken Hollenbach said the Watsontown Firemen's Parade is still Saturday, June 17, 2017 but the start time has been changed to 6:00 pm.

**REPORTS:**

**MAYOR:** none

**POLICE:** written

Chief Witherite said there was another dog incident.

Insurance and equipment for the Chief's horse "Samson" was discussed.

The Chief mentioned the possible purchase of automatic eyes for the traffic lights to be used by the Police Department and the Fire Department.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the equipment for the Chief's horse being purchased with Borough funds. Many spoke regarding the issue. Rob Brown of 11 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street asked the amount it cost per year for Samson's equipment; he volunteered to raise donations to outfit Samson. Brent and Erica Frey of 314 Main Street spoke as well.

**FIRE &  
AMBULANCE:**

written

**EMERGENCY  
MGMT.:**

President Rump spoke regarding the emergency needs forms that were sent out with electric bills.

**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

**BOROUGH  
SOLICITOR:**

Solicitor Landon needs signatures from Brendi and President Rump following tonight's meeting.

**BOROUGH  
MANAGER:**

written

Jay also added that this Wednesday marks 1 year that he has been with the Borough; he said it has been an awesome year, it has went fast" and he's looking forward to a few more. He thanked Council, Brendi, Lisa and the citizens.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

written

**BOROUGH  
SECRETARY:**

nothing

**PAVING LIST:**

President Rump said the paving list included in everyone's packet will be discussed at the Committee Workshop.

**COUNCIL  
PARKETS:**

Ginny Wirth of 40 High Street asked when Council receives their information for the Council Meeting. Jay and Janet spoke to her concern. Solicitor Landon also spoke to the question.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before Council, Dan Folk made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer