

**Watson town Borough
Committee Meeting
March 30, 2015**

OPENING: The March 30, 2015 Watson town Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in Council Chambers.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Janet Rump, Solicitor Ben Landon, Mayor David Hontz, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Chief Rodney Witherite and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Harry Hefty and Dan Folk were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Edna Reinard of the American Red Cross, Judy Marshall, Pat Yeager, Ken Hollenbach, Mary Phillips, Buzz Reynolds, Barb Diehl, Kevin Mertz, Sandy Hendricks, Cindy Crozier and Brent Frey.

4th of JULY PARADE: Barb Diehl spoke regarding WABA’s parade on Saturday, July 4th on Main Street. She asked for Main Street to be closed down at 9:30 am for the passing of the American Flag. A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the request. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Miller	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

EDNA REINARD - AMERICAN RED CROSS: Edna Reinard of the American Red Cross thanked Council for allowing her to come and talk about the organization as well as allowing them to use Council Chambers to proceed with their case work on the day of the fire. She stressed the American Red Cross continues to exist in communities, with or without “a physical office”. They have cut a lot of costs by closing offices and they’ve redirected those resources back to their clients. She continued by explaining the role of the American Red Cross in the event of fire; they are the emergency/immediate needs during the first 3 days. The American Red Cross continues to follow up with the clients to make sure their needs are met; a lot of those needs are met by partner agencies; ex: Hands-Up Foundation, Salvation Army and American Rescue Workers.

- 5 YEAR FIRE PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGN:** Edna said the American Red Cross is partnering with others going door to door educating people and physically install smoke detectors. She spoke further about the program including fire safety, preparedness and awareness. She said they will be reaching out to our fire company here in Watson town; the program is free of charge to the community.
- CEMETERY:** Janet has given Edie a list of things that need to be done for spring in the cemetery. She said the crew has the cemetery looking very good.
- ELECTRIC:** Edie said the electricians have completed everything on the “priority A list” from Exactor Report. They have (1) more transformer to change out under the “A” category, then they will start working down the list on other things.
- FINANCE:** Jack said the Finance Committee is working on getting information on “money” the Borough can earn on “money” the Borough has.
- MANHOLES:** Edie said (2) manholes were repaired; MRSA provided the supplies, our crew did the repair work. We have 2 or 3 more that need replaced once we can get the entire crew involved (traffic control).
- STORM DRAINS:** Storm drains have been cleaned
- STREET SWEEPER:** The parts for the street sweeper were painted today. They will begin to put the street sweeper back together.
- HANDICAP PARKING:** A customer has repeatedly complained about a handicap parking space outside the Borough Building door. The customer told Edie he is not handicapped; she reminded him of the handicap parking out back at the end of the ramp. The Mayor said Council should possibly look at moving the parking spot to the end of the lot; thus making it easier and safer for customers to maneuver around in the Borough parking lot. Sargeant Faux reminded Council of the handicap parking space across the street. The issue will be put on next week’s agenda.
- MAIN STREET:** President Miller spoke regarding the condition of Main Street; MRSA was to buy risers and manholes and “we” are to install them.
- SEWER REPAIRS:** Jack Marshall said the monies left in the waste management funds will be used in this town to take care of a number of needed repairs.
- BUILDING UPGRADES & UPDATES:** The Mayor spoke extensively regarding proposed Borough Building upgrades and updates for both the safety and security of employees and the public. These upgrades/updates may include but are not limited to:

- bullet proof glass
- panic buttons
- taking down walls
- flooring
- installation of keypads (eliminate keys)
- electric/wiring updates

The Mayor said he will present things to Council once he has a complete “big picture”. He thinks it would be beneficial to make the Police Station more “user friendly” and accessible. They’ve also taken a look at the EMA Operation Center at the garage. Chief Witherite stated Edie was in receipt of an estimate to install the panic buttons and also gave his opinion on the need for keypads to replace keys. President Miller asked for a total dollar amount for the project; that will determine whether the project can be done all at once or pieces of the project done at a time. The project will be advertised and put out for bid.

**HELP FOR
FIRE VICTIMS:**

D&D Restaurant was noted for providing hot food for the fire victims. The swift, immediate response from the Red Cross, the fire departments and the town were also noted.

**POLICE -
RADIUS
REQUIREMENTS:**

In an effort to aide in the recruitment of more police officers, the Mayor and Chief Witherite spoke regarding the expansion of the mileage radius for police officers from 15 miles to the possibility of 30 miles. Chief Witherite made numerous phone calls and sent emails in an effort to get applicants but the “mileage requirement” deters qualified candidates from applying. Sargeant Faux said the police contract would need reopened and amended once given the Council’s response. Solicitor Landon encouraged the Council to think about the policy change from the Borough’s standpoint.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

Edie requested an Executive Session for personnel following tonight’s meeting.

**INT’L PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE
CODE MEETING:**

President Miller said Council held an International Property Maintenance Code Meeting. Marty from Light-Heigel will be getting back to Edie with several dates that she will bring back to Council.

**SALT STORAGE
SHED:**

Per Edie, Dan has not been able to schedule a Street Committee Meeting though he does have the specs for the salt storage shed.

**ORDINANCE
2015-01:**

Edie said Ordinance 2015-01 regarding parking restrictions (10 minute parking) has been advertised. There was confusion, Council didn’t seem to know what the ordinance was about, nor did they have copies. Edie said the ordinance was in a packet or two ago. It was agreed to put it on the agenda for next week. Edie said she would provide Council a copy.

**PANIC
BUTTONS:**

After Edie asked Chief Witherite if he wanted to discuss the quotes for the panic buttons, it was agreed that they would be included on next week's agenda.

**PRESIDENT
of COUNCIL:**

President Miller mentioned her Florida vacation and highly recommends it.

**GREENWAYS
COMMITTEE
MEETING:**

Edie said she is working on a Greenways Committee Meeting date to schedule Jim Harvrilla to come and look at the electric work at the Canal Boat.

**PPL
SETTLEMENT:**

Edie said the Borough is in receipt of its check from PPL regarding the agreement that was signed a couple months ago. The settlement check was in the amount of \$26,750.00 and deposited into the electric account under other revenue. President Miller said this was a consortium's lawsuit against PPL and has went on for years. A resident asked if it was going to be divided up between the residents; put towards their electric bills. President Miller said it was the "Borough's money"....ie the resident's money. The comments continued.

**ADJOURN TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

There being no further business to come before Council; Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to adjourn to Executive Session, not to reopen to Public Session at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer