

**Watson town Borough  
Council Meeting  
May 5, 2014**

**OPENING:** The May 5, 2014 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held at the First Lutheran Church, 400 Main Street, Watson town. Pastor James Ritter gave the opening prayer and the Pledge to the American Flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Mayor Dave Hontz, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Harry Hefty was absent.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Buzz Reynolds, A. Wislock, Judy Marshall, Mary Phillips, Pat Yeager, Bob Stoudt, Ken Hollenbach, Judy Bergman, Vera Young, Ronald Miller, Pastor James Ritter, Dave Powell, Kayla Fisher, Barry Bastian, Robin Fisher, Al Reeves, William West, Cindy Crozier, Sandy Hendricks, Matt Farrand, Brent Frey Barb Pick, John Pick, Liz Folk, Viola Ranck, Bob Frey, Sarah Laubach, Carolyn Powell.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on April 7, 2014 and the Committee Meeting on April 28, 2014. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS & TRANSFERS:** A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the bills and transfers in the amount of \$272,586.97. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PAVILION:** Bob Stoudt of the Warrior Run Community Corp.'s Pathways Committee spoke about the pavilion project down by Bi-Lo. The group

has been working on the project for approx. 3 years and he is happy to report the Borough received a certificate of occupancy for the pavilion project. It is his understanding that all permits, approvals and inspections have been done. The parts that remain to be finished are the placement of a plaque with names of donors to the project and working with the Greenways Committee on the garden. The structure and sidewalk are done and at this point, barring any objections, Bob Stoudt formally presented the pavilion and sidewalk to the Borough. President Miller thanked Bob Stoudt and said the project is very beautiful. It was followed by a round of applause. Al Reeves thanked everyone who helped on the project and said he's looking forward to going down and enjoying the pavilion. He said it is for "all of us". Jack Marshall made a motion to accept the dedication of the pavilion. A second was made by Janet Rump. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Bob Stoudt said they would schedule a dedication ceremony at some point and would contact the local media. A resident asked if the group had any resources left to do landscaping to go with the project. Bob said that is the second phase of the project and they are going to partner with the Greenways Committee. President Miller spoke regarding John Pick's Greenways presentation at last week's meeting. She suggested Bob Stoudt meet with members of the Greenways Committee to compare notes and plans for the area.

**THANK YOU:** Edie said the Borough was in receipt of a thank you from Marilyn Mook. Flowers were sent on behalf of the Borough to Marilyn when her husband Terry recently passed. Terry Mook was an employee of the Borough for 38 years.

**FLOWERS:** Edie said flowers were also sent on behalf of the Borough to Dorothy Yannaconne for the recent passing of Dr. Yannaconne. Edie said Dr. Yannaconne gave many years of service to the Borough of Watsontown.

**POT HOLE AT CORNER OF LIBERTY & THIRD STREETS:** Pat Yeager said there is a crater at the corner of Liberty and Third Streets. She said it was to be taken care of last year and nothing was done, therefore it continues to get worse. She asked if something could be done to get this pothole fixed. They have gone to the water company and the gas company and neither one think it's theirs. She said the cut out is so old that there is no way to go back and get them to fill it in. Pat feels it's now the Borough's responsibility to fix it. President Miller asked Dan

Folk, as head of the Street Committee, if he knew where Pat was talking about. Dan said they had put cold patch in it this winter to temporarily alleviate the problem and the committee is still working on whose problem it is to fix. Edie said it is on the paving list. President Miller said when the Borough paves; the area will be looked at to see what it will take to fix it right.

**TANNERY  
RUN:**

Barry Bastian asked about work that was to be done on Tannery Run, the creek that runs along East 9<sup>th</sup> Street behind the Borough Garage. Barry understood that Scott Winters was working on plans to improve the flow of the creek. Pat Yeager recalled talk to remove concrete, opening of the waterway and the removal of trees and debris in the area. The Mayor said he read Scott's report and the Conservation District and Chip Gross were involved. He said they were looking at the Borough garage side of the bridge. There is a sand bar there and regulations have to be followed but trees could be removed to enhance the water flow on the Borough garage side of Matthew Street. Pat Yeager said the "down" side was also looked at and the way the concrete slows the flow down. President Miller said they talked about it but they were told there was nothing that they could do about that. Pat said we would have to contact Chip Gross to find out what the suggestions were. The Mayor said to contact the County Conservation District and there are things that can be done. There was further discussion. President Miller asked Edie to contact the Conservation District, Edie said she would also include it on the agenda.

**FIRST STREET  
CURB:**

Edie said she is working on getting prices for the First Street curb repair.

**ORDINANCE  
2014-01  
CHINESE  
LANTERNS:**

Edie said Ordinance 2014-01 has been advertised. President Miller explained that the ordinance was being established to prohibit the release of Chinese lanterns in the Borough. A resident asked how the ordinance was going to be enforced. Solicitor Tira said if someone is caught releasing a lantern, they will be fined. President Miller said we will have to police ourselves and our neighbors regarding this matter. Solicitor Tira confirmed the penalty of a fine for the release of the lanterns within the Borough but couldn't remember the specifics regarding the minimums and maximums of the fines associated with the release of Chinese lanterns in the Borough. Janet Rump said private citizens released them in the park last year during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks; they weren't sold or released by the Borough. Jack Marshall made a motion to pass Ordinance 2014-01 which prohibits the release of Chinese lanterns in the Borough of Watsontown. A second was given by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Marshall	- yes

Young - yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM-METHODIST CHURCH:**

President Miller spoke regarding the summer lunch program sponsored by the Methodist Church. The Borough is in receipt of a request from Carl Crawford, the Kids Café Administrator to use the park for their program. President Miller said the program has been very successful and feels it's a great program. Jack Marshall spoke regarding the program. Ralph Young made a motion to approve the use of the park for the summer lunch program. A second was given by Dan Folk. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion approved.

**ROOF BIDS FOR THE MAINTENANCE GARAGE:**

President Miller opened the sealed bids for the repair of the Borough garage roof and read the bids as follows:

	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Roof:</u>	<u>Wood Deck:</u>	<u>Seam Repair/ Patch Work:</u>
1.	GSH Installations, Inc. Selinsgrove, PA	\$19,840.00	\$7.25/sf	\$465.00
2.	ACCG Inc. Montoursville, PA	\$15,400.00	\$4.00/sf	\$750.00
4.	A.J. Roofing Inc. Sybertsville, PA	\$22,400.00	\$30.00/sf	\$775.00
4.	Spotts Brothers, Inc. Schuylkill Haven, PA	\$18,240.00	\$3.50/sf	\$700.00

Edie confirmed \$20,000.00 was budgeted for the repair. After much discussion, questions and comments from the audience, Jack Marshall made a motion to award the job based on the lowest bid to ACCG Inc. (Atlantic Coast Contracting Group Inc.) of Montoursville. A second was given by Dan Folk. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- no
Miller	- yes		

Motion carried by majority vote.

**RIVER FRONT PROJECT COSTS GREENWAY:** Edie spoke regarding the costs for the river front landscape project that were provided to Council at last week’s meeting. She read over the list and requested Council’s approval to move forward with the purchase of items from Turbotville Landscape. John Pick said these costs are associated with the area between the Canal Boat and the river for now. A motion was made by Ralph Young, seconded by Janet Rump to move forward with this portion of the project and purchase trees, plants, stone, etc. from Turbotville Landscape. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BUCKET TRUCK:** Edie said she spoke with Ben Myers for possible bucket truck rentals. She contacted Nesco Rentals regarding a bucket truck that would fit the Borough’s criteria. They have three such trucks that could be brought to us within a day or two with a cost of \$3,700.00/month. Edie said Ben Myers will be a backup, though it may be a longer wait for him to get here. Edie said we have a lot of electric work to do and she thinks it’s probably a good idea to rent a bucket truck. Janet asked about a possible date for our truck and Edie said possibly by the end of May. Solicitor Tira said the contract was dated October 2013 and the company that sold the Borough the truck stated delivery would be 160 to 280 days out. He said “at best”, we’re probably looking at July or August. Edie spoke regarding the repair and testing costs associated with the Borough’s current bucket truck, at a cost of approx. \$6,000.00. She said the gloves, sleeves and hot sticks have been tested. President Miller asked about the possibility of renting a truck month to month until the new truck is delivered. Edie said she has talked with the company the new truck is coming from and told them how critical the delivery of the new truck is. Jack Marshall asked if the work is done to the old truck, has anyone said anything about the marketability of the truck. Edie said they haven’t talked of that and she has no information. There was discussion in the audience regarding the possible trade in of the old bucket truck and the increased value if the repairs are made. President Miller noted Dale Stahl was in the crowd and asked him if the old bucket truck was fixable, to which Dale said “anything is fixable”. Dale explained what a bucket truck stress test consisted of. Edie said per Greg Brouse, the test should have been done last summer or fall. Jack Marshall said he thought we should find out what we could sell the truck for if we pay to have the stress test done. Dale also said replacement of the cables is recommended every so many

years and the cables have never been replaced on our truck. He reminded Council that the truck wasn't new when it was bought. President Miller repeated the old bucket truck needs stress tests and cables replaced. The Mayor said the truck is not worth fixing because that is why a new one was ordered, "we went through this last year". He also asked if the company where the new truck was coming from would be paying penalties. Solicitor Tira said there was nothing in the agreement. A resident asked "wasn't the new truck to be delivered in February?" Solicitor Tira said the paperwork that he reviewed from last October, he didn't handle. It was handled by Public Works, purchased in October and there was no delivery date in the actual agreement, he believes February was verbally stated, but again, Solicitor Tira said he doesn't know, he wasn't part of the conversation but what the Borough has right now states 160 to 280 days out. Pat Yeager, a resident, said "we always knew that it would be at least 6 months". Additional comments were made. Dale Stahl asked if we had checked with Williamsport Electric. Edie said they have been willing to back us up but she would call again and verify that they will be a backup for the Borough. Edie confirmed there is a lot of electric maintenance work to be done and the Borough currently has no truck to do the work, let alone the outages. Another resident mentioned Lewisburg has a bucket truck for sale and the resident suggested making a call to see if it was certified and possibly rent it. It was clarified that it was Citizens Electric, not Lewisburg. President Miller asked Edie to call Citizens regarding the truck and the possibility of renting it. After much discussion between Council and the Solicitor, along with comments from various members of the audience, Ralph Young made a motion to authorize Edie to spend up to \$3,700.00 to rent a bucket truck for one month. Janet Rump gave a second. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY  
WALL  
REPAIR:**

Janet Rump spoke regarding the cemetery wall repair. She said the only bid the Borough received was from JE Meyers Masonry Restoration Company. We have documentation proving an attempt was made to get other bids. Janet said JE Meyers gave three options for the repair. He has 30 to 35 years of experience and has recently moved to the Williamsport area. He will not be able to start working on the cemetery wall until the end of July. He would come down and brace the center wall because he cannot guarantee the wall isn't going to collapse. He would come down before July to brace the wall. Janet read the details of each option offered by JE Meyers, varying from \$17,650.00 to \$12,650.00 as well as an option requiring 2 men @ \$50/hr./man @ approx. 20-23 days

plus materials. Janet made a recommendation to Council for option #1 at \$17,650.00, to be paid from the cemetery fund. There was further conversation regarding the cemetery wall. Janet then made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve option #1 for the restoration and repair of the cemetery wall. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

President Miller announced an Executive Session following tonight's meeting for litigation, labor and insurance issues.

**PENN DOT CURB DESIGN - THIRD & MAIN STREET:**

The Mayor said he is in the process of writing a letter to Penn Dot questioning changes made to the design of the curb at the corner of Third and Main Street, especially the west side of the street. He said the design has actually created a tripping hazard by putting a curb on the inside of the sloped areas. He wondered if it was a new regulation that he wasn't aware of but the same thing was done by Rick Wolf's corner. It is approx. a 2" tapered curb that possibly for an elderly person, it is a tripping hazard. He feels the redesign has left something to be desired at these two corners. He said the walkway to the Canal Boat Pavilion had to be redesigned because in 25 feet, it was an inch higher, which made the percentage of slope more than 5%. The slope at the bank towards Third Street is over 10% and this is Penn Dot's design, not the water company. The Mayor feels it's a public safety issue and he will have a report at the next meeting.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

written

**FIRE and AMBULANCE:**

none

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:**

none

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

written

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR:**

Solicitor Tira spoke regarding Moran's property on Ash Street. He said they were cited in April for the noncompliant use of the property. Their attorney has requested a 30 day extension of time to get the property into compliance. They are also seeking Council's consideration to amend the

zoning ordinance, which will allow that site to be used as a parking lot for vehicles and heavy equipment vehicles. They have spoken with Solicitor Tira and after speaking with their attorney, he has asked them to put their request in writing. They have cleaned up and removed the barbed wire from the lot in an effort to make it more amicable to our citizens. Solicitor Tira has indicated to Moran said modification of the zoning will have to go through the public process and Council would decide what the best option is. Moran has asked for an additional 30 days to comply and if Council is willing to consider such a modification, start the public process. He said again, it is up for Council's consideration. Solicitor Tira said they are asking for an extension until June 21, 2014. Sandy Hendricks stated Moran has cleaned the lot up but moved those things directly across the street. Solicitor Tira said he'd have to check, but he thinks the other lot is in a different zoning district, therefore those rules do not apply. He believes across the street is zoned "industrial". Solicitor Tira said Moran is looking to park vehicles on the Ash Street property but a parking lot not being used for business is not a part of the zoning district. It would have to be changed to allow the property to be used as a parking area. A resident asked about the barbed wire, Solicitor Tira said the barbed wire is not the issue, but rather the height of the fencing with barbed wire at the top. Solicitor Tira said Moran is looking to the Borough for a modification to the zoning and he is the messenger. If the answer is "no" or if Council is willing to discuss it, Solicitor Tira will relay the message. Dan Folk made a motion to give Moran an additional 30 days to comply. Solicitor Tira said Moran is looking for a zoning change for the entire district, not just for that particular site for the allowance of parking lots for regular and heavy equipment vehicles. The motion died for a lack of a second motion. Solicitor Tira said he would inform them of no extension to come into compliance. He also asked if Council will consider amending the zoning ordinance for the district. President Miller took a consensus of Council, which voted 3 to 2 against amending the zoning ordinance. Solicitor Tira advised Council that Moran's alternative is to seek a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board or to follow their own period of amendment. There were differences of opinion in the crowd with numerous people commenting on Moran's various properties within the Borough.

**AUDIT:** Edie said Rogers, Huber & Associates are still working on the 2013 audit.

**LIQUID FUELS  
2012 AUDIT:** Edie said the Borough is in receipt of the 2012 Liquid Fuels audit for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. There were no findings and the audit is available if anyone wants to review it.

**AMP-OHIO  
RENEWABLE  
ENERGY** Edie said the Borough is in receipt of another renewable energy credit from AMP-Ohio in the amount of \$2,320.82. It will be deposited into the electric account.



**CREDIT:**

**BOROUGH SECRETARY:** none

**JESVIC 5K:** Janet Rump said a resident approached her regarding the JesVic 5K race. Alleys and streets are closed anywhere from 2 to 2 ½ hours prior to the race. Town residents are able to maneuver the streets but those from out of town and are here for the race are not. The businesses in town are asking for streets and alleys to be closed for a shorter amount of time before the race. President Miller said that would be a question for Chief Derr. Chief Derr said the problem with events like this is having individuals to direct traffic. All of the officers are here, plus they try and have the part-timers come in as well. The Borough has also gone from 12 to 15 auxiliary officers down to 3 and 2 fire police. He said they put out calls for help all the way down to Northumberland and Sunbury to help block off the streets, etc. Chief Derr said they never have enough people anymore for any of these types of events to help us; therefore his department must put the blockades up early. His department is responsible for the safety of everyone participating in that 5K race. The race kicks off at 9:00 am and when they start running, we have to have the streets blocked prior to 9:00 am. Chief Derr says he understands that people see it as a problem but the race is approved. He said a couple years ago, the race was asked to move its location to help with traffic but the decision made here was to leave the race where it was. Chief Derr said the Borough doesn't have the man power and they have to block every street and alley. We have a lot of streets and alleys to be blocked when you run a 5K race of that size throughout Watsontown Borough. President Miller said the race is a good cause and the town has to put up with it for a few hours. Dan Folk asked if the event planners were able to help with directing traffic, etc. Chief Derr said they must stick with the fire and police departments.

**MAYOR HONTZ:** At this time, Mayor Hontz asked Pastor Ritter to come closer so he wasn't required to shout. The Mayor said he wanted to answer some of the Pastor's questions and then speak directly to Brendi Brooke. The Mayor said "at the last meeting, I got pretty upset." He stated "it's not always uncommon for me to get upset and there are conditions that usually spark my flares in temper, it's a family tradition". He said "Brendi, I'm sorry that my tone and volume and what you considered poor behavior on my part, I'm sorry that that upset you but it does not change the message that I had to send". The Mayor said to Pastor Ritter that this was "by no means an attack". He feels comfortable talking to the Pastor and he thought by talking to him one on one the Mayor thought he could keep his blood pressure down. He stated that he also wore a bright red shirt so his bright red face doesn't show up. The Mayor said he did see Pastor Ritter posts

and the pastor has pretty well assessed the situation “when someone is red faced and shouting”. The Mayor said “I am a shouter, I’ve been shouted at from the time I was a young kid, maybe that’s why I can’t hear but I normally talk loud”. The Mayor apologized for shouting but when someone is red faced and shouting at you and what is being shouted are accusations or that you’re not a truthful person, that’s exactly what he was saying”. He said it was intentional. Since June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor said he has been lied to and lied about his character has been assassinated and attacked. The Mayor stated “his friend and very confident working ally, Mr. Winters was put through a long string of despicable behavior, pushed and bullied to the point of where he (Mr. Winters) made statements on Facebook that were of an unfortunate nature.” The Mayor stated he wouldn’t comment on the validity or the lack there of, that’s another thing. The Mayor continued that at last week’s meeting, Mrs. Moser was pretty upset with him because he had said she had to do an inventory, she denies having said that. The Mayor suggested to google “gas lighting”, there was a movie year’s ago called “Gaslight”. He said “gaslight” is also a term used for psychological bullying, where you tell a lie then deny it with such vehemence that the person receiving it begins to question his own memory. He stated that if this technique is done long enough, you can push someone over the edge and he thinks this is what was done to Mr. Winters. He (Mr. Winters) posted something that he shouldn’t have but the Mayor said “that’s another case”. The Mayor said “Mrs. Moser and I have a little bit of a feud and it started back in March when she announced to Council that he was a liar and that he had attacked her”. The Mayor told Pastor Ritter and anyone else that wants to hear it “that was not the truth”. “That makes me angry, I get a little red and a little loud” said the Mayor. He said “her statement that Scott got no mail, to her knowledge, he didn’t and if he did, it would have been forwarded”. The Mayor said Scott did get mail and it wasn’t forwarded, one being a registered letter. “That makes me angry” stated the Mayor. He continued, a couple months ago, he was put in a position where as the chief executive officer for the head of his department, he was forced to make a move that was unpleasant, knowing full well that the Council would reinstate the Chief of Police. He stated he knew that was going to happen and he had no problem with that. The Mayor said “the problem was we waited for Harry Hefty to show up and we had one hour for me to give my deposition and we will not go into that but when Mr. Hefty finally came into the room, he got in my face, right over to me and said “well there’s the liar now” knowing full well how I reacted when Mrs. Moser called me a liar months before”. The Mayor said Harry was trying to elicit violent reaction. The Mayor said “he’d take a polygraph any day and beat him (Harry Hefty) two to one”. “That makes me angry” the Mayor said. The Mayor stated Harry Hefty was not an elected official; he was put into office by .97 percent of the active voters in this town. “Despicable behavior; that makes me angry” declared the Mayor. Mr. Winters was subjected to the

Personnel Committees' implementation of a leave of absence; the terms of which are very confidential; yet somehow two weeks after Mr. Winters had left the property an article appears in the Sun-Gazette and on the radio stating the terms of the confidential document that he would have to have a psychological evaluation in order to return to work. The Mayor said "there is no excuse for such vicious behavior"; "how's a man to get a job when everyone looks at him and it's been on the radio two weeks after the fact". The Mayor said he knew what the terms of Scott's release were because Scott gave him a copy; "the only other people are sitting at this table". "This makes me angry and I'm trying not to get red" declared the Mayor. A member of the audience uttered Harry Hefty isn't here this evening, to which the Mayor pronounced "I am under a lot of emotional stress over this; I'm to the point that I'm not going to get angry anymore, I'm going to go by the old saying "get even" and that's not a course I want to take". The Mayor stated "in the last 3 or 4 days, I've circulated a survey to every business listed by WABA (Watsontown Area Business Association) and what the survey wants to know is how many of you saw a petition that I was circulating. He said "according to Mrs. Miller "we have lots of reports that the Mayor is going out to the public, he has been at nearly every business in town" so we, as per Ryan, we need to have a meeting to publicly censure him. This makes me angry". The Mayor said this comes on the tail end of Harry Hefty saying we need to silence the Mayor. The Mayor asked "don't you find that a little 1939ish?" Solicitor Tira clarified it is censure not censor; censure means public reprimand and is the only course an elected body has against another elected official; it's not to silence them; it's to express they are of a different opinion or do not agree with their actions. Solicitor Tira said there is often confusion between the two words. The Mayor asked Solicitor Tira why he supported this line of action when it's not in the Borough Code. The Mayor said Solicitor Tira could email him the supporting documentation for his decision. Solicitor Tira said the general question was what action may a Council take against an elected official on issues they disagree on; the only option would be to censure. The Mayor said he thought Solicitor Tira did a good job pounding that into his head over the 80 minutes. He proceeded "folks this was all handled at a special meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 in the afternoon; how many of you people had to stand outside?" There were people in the audience that raised their hands; the Mayor thanked them for attending. The Mayor said the meeting opened up then immediately went into Executive Session and you're not supposed to talk about Executive Sessions. He stated the first 10 minutes were of a personnel issue and the next 80 minutes was Council, with the help of the Solicitor, accusing the Mayor of circulating a petition. He has recently surveyed and has gotten back 10 so far and more to come back in; not one person has seen any evidence of a petition that Mr. Hefty and Mrs. Miller took it upon themselves to trump up this bogus lie. "This makes me angry Jim" declared the Mayor "and this is the kind of stuff I've been subjected

to since the 18<sup>th</sup>; 80 minutes, there was no petition.” The Mayor claims he was also told he wasn’t allowed to talk about his displeasure of the Borough Manager. He said he fell for this bullying technique for quite some time but it’s a violation of his free speech. He said when someone calls him a liar and says he’s attacked them then he has a right to express his feelings. Solicitor Tira addressed the Mayor’s statement regarding his free speech; confidential matters discussed by personnel that are shared with the Council and you (the Mayor) need to remain confidential. The Mayor said the issue was when it comes to being called a liar and she happens to be employed here; to which Solicitor Tira said that wasn’t his recollection of what was said. The Mayor said “of course not”. The Mayor claims he has been eliminated from Executive Sessions according to Solicitor Tira but his own personal council and the solicitor for the Association of Mayors say that is a violation. The Mayor asked if it was because these Executive Sessions had to do with him. Solicitor Tira explained “Executive Sessions where there are issues that have a direct conflict between the you and the Borough Council, he has to represent Borough Council and provide legal advice to them on those issues, it cannot be done properly with you present.” The Mayor stated “we’ll argue this one out in court”. Again the Mayor stated “these things make me mad Jim”. The Mayor spoke of the issue of him being locked out at which time words were exchanged between the Mayor and others with differences of opinions in the audience. Mary Phillips stated her name and declared “you are a liar”. Cindy Crozier stood to face the audience and said “he is our Mayor; he won a historic election; and I know most people in this town didn’t think he’d win it”. She said “I’m saying because of that, there are citizens in this town that wrote him in and yes, it was a big defeat to Harry Hefty and it was hard to take”. She said now we’ve seen what happened after that which was not really reassuring to this town; so she as a taxpayer has seen what has happened over the months in legal bills. Cindy stated she can hardly accept thousands of dollars per month in legal bills when that money should be going to better Watsontown, where she lives. She said “I wasn’t born and raised here but that I can’t accept and somebody better be man and woman enough to stop this and most of these people (Council) have not gotten past the election”. She believes that, she said she’s not a vindictive type person but she believes that. President Miller said she allowed Cindy to make her peace and say her say at which time she said this concluded the business for the Borough and attempted to adjourn the meeting for the evening. Brent Frey called out that the audience listened to Mr. Hontz and he had a question, while President Miller continued to state the business of the Borough was complete. Brent said that the Mayor had sent out an email to come to this meeting if you want to know what went on with February 24<sup>th</sup>. Brent said he was retaliated against because he spoke up for the Chief. He asked the Mayor “why was the Chief suspended, we never got that answer, why was he suspended, that’s all I’m asking”. The Mayor said “do you want the

answer”? Brent said “yes I do”. “Because there is a pending lawsuit, I am not going to answer that question” the Mayor declared. Brent said he thought the lawsuit was settled that he (Chief Derr) had against the Borough. The Mayor claimed he hasn’t seen anything and then suggested Brent direct his question to “Mr. Derr”. President Miller corrected the Mayor with “Chief Derr”. Mary Phillips said the Mayor claimed she followed him and documented conversations between him and Scott Winters, she denies it. The Mayor said he never said such things. The room erupted with everyone talking.

President Miller thanked everyone and stated “just remember, you’ve only heard one side”.

**ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:57 p.m.

**RE-CONVENE:**

The meeting was re-convened at 9:10 PM.

**PPL SETTLEMENT:**

A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Janet Rump to accept the settlement from PPL. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**HIGHMARK:**  
(medical insurance)

A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Dan Folk to terminate the current medical insurance with Highmark effective May 31, 2014. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Ralph Young to adjourn at 9:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer