

Watsonstown Borough Council
Committee Meeting
May 26, 2015

OPENING: The May 26, 2015 Watsonstown Borough Council Committee Meeting was called to order by Council President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM in the Council Chambers of the Watsonstown Borough Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present: Harriet Miller, Ralph Young, Jack Marshall, Dan Folk, Harry Hefty, Janet Rump, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Assistant Secretary Lisa Davis

OTHERS PRESENT: Judy Marshall, Mary Phillips, Becky Hontz, Vera Young, Kevin Mertz, Jackie Sheatler, Earl Sheatler, Dave Powell, Cindy Crozier, Virginia Wirth and Sandy Hendricks

ERIN THREET: Erin Threet was here representing HRG. Erin stated they are in the very near, final stages of being ready to start the 7th Street Re-Route Project. The applications for the railroad crossings have been submitted and they will soon be submitting to PennDot the highway occupancy permits. She would like to speak with Council about the submission process to PennDot. They are proposing to put into place a detour of 8th Street. Instead of being headed eastbound on 8th Street traffic will go straight up 405 to Main Street in Dewart which turns into Springtown and then turn onto Seagraves and back to 8th Street. This will be the main detour route. The signing that they are currently purposing is “Road Closed – Local Traffic Only”. Erin stated they are planning on working with Moran so they are not shutting down their operation. They will also be allowing emergency vehicles and people who live on this route that have no other way to their homes to use the road. Other than that they want to keep vehicles off the area.

President Miller asked Erin if she knew how long this would be closed. Erin said the main reason they are closing this route is the railroad crossing itself. It is a bored crossing which involves an excavated pit to set the machine on. It is approximately 15’ wide by 40’ long and 12’ deep. They could keep one lane open however they felt with the the magnitude of the construction it would be better to close it. Erin estimates the detour will be in effect two to three weeks. President Miller asked if this was the only alternative and how far up 8th Street will be closed. Bill Michael stated 8th Street will be closed on the east side of the railroad tracks for approximately one block. The remainder of what Bill Michael said is not audible on the tape. Erin said the construction will go from the intersection of 8th Street and Ash approximately 250 – 300 feet to the intersection of Matthew & 8th Streets, one manhole up. Erin said

they started the detour much closer to town by using True Blue Road to Fisher Drive however PennDot did not like this because of the posted limits on the roads.

Chief Witherite said he feels the biggest issue is the fact it will be one lane 24/7 and he asked that they place electronic signals beginning and end. They had talked about putting a flagger out there 24 hours a day or if the police could. Chief Witherite stated we are unable to do that.

Erin said she spoke with PennDot this afternoon. This is not set in stone, however rather than signaling they do have some standard details that include some specific signage with a stop signs and flashing lights. Chief Witherite said his concern is how that will work for the length of time needed. PennDot has the say in this since it is a state route. Erin said they will submit the highway occupancy permit application and part of that application is the detour plan as well as what they call the maintenance and protection of traffic. HRG will have a narrative explaining how they intend to have the contractor maintain and protect the public and flow of traffic. They are still in the talking stages with PennDot.

Erin said PennDot would like to see in the paperwork submitted that HRG has spoken with the Council about this and awareness of what is going on. Typically a simple letter can be sent to PennDot. Erin provided a sample copy. Erin would like to ask in the interest of time that the Council authorize Edie to send the letter to PennDot on Council's behalf. The actual work should probably start in mid to late June.

Borough Streets include 9th, Baylor, Liberty, 7th and some of Matthew. Solicitor Tira asked when Erin would like the letter to go to PennDot. Erin said hopefully this week, however she needs to do some final coordination with them. Solicitor Tira asked if she plans to have a plan to the Chief this week. Erin said yes.

Janet asked who is liable if there is an accident there. Solicitor Tira said potentially the Borough, however there are many limitations. If it is unknown, for instance someone disregards the traffic signals, it is their responsibility. The Borough is only responsible if they are aware of a dangerous situation and do nothing to correct it in a timely manner.

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Jack Marshall to authorize Edie Moser, Borough Manager and Chief Witherite to send the letter to PennDot concerning the detour. 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.

7th STREET:
(truck restriction)

Bill Michael asked if the truck restriction on 7th Street can be lifted while construction is going on so Moran can continue to operate. There was much discussion. Sergeant Faux explained he believes Bill means the trucks will come down 8th Street, make a left onto Liberty and a right onto 7th. Sergeant Faux said they already do that to get into the one warehouse. They would have the option to continue on down 7th and into the parking lot at Moran's. Sergeant felt the issue before was Broad Street to 7th. Chief Witherite will look at this and if there is no issue it will be taken care of.

CEMETERY:

Janet said the cemetery was up and ready for Memorial Day services.

There was concern from a resident concerning a stone. Edie had the crew straightened the stone. The foundation did have a small chip out of it. Janet said some of the veteran markers are in bad shape. Janet will look into this.

Janet spoke with some crew members concerning the shed at the cemetery. The northern wall has shifted. Council should probably consider budgeting to replace or repair this shed.

Janet said she has not seen any work done at the Cronrath memorial. When the lady was here to show Council the design she said there were a few other things ahead of us but that was back in March. Janet asked Mayor Hontz if he has heard anything. He has not but will look into it.

PARKS:

Janet said the mulching has been done. We are still looking to get a footer poured for the stone at the 8th Street Park that is leaning. Dan said he looked at the stone. He was told by the crew that the stone is two feet in the ground. Janet said there is no base (footer) however. Mayor Hontz said he would recommend drilling the stone and putting a pin in it and having a foundation. Dan felt a professional would need to do that.

**MAYOR
HONTZ:**

Mayor Hontz gave a reminder that the guide cables on Penna Avenue really need attention. Edie said now that Memorial Day is over it is a top priority.

MULBERRY ALLEY: Janet asked why Mulberry Alley was not on the paving list. She asked if the property owners on this alley were notified that nothing would be done. Edie, Ralph, Dan, Barry Garverick from PennDot looked at all the paving and Barry felt the problem was some residents putting runoff water onto the alley. Janet said it is on the Master Stormwater Plan to be done. After much discussion, Council instructed Edie to contact Uni-Tec and have the engineer come and look at the alley.

MAYOR:
(correspondence) Mayor Hontz stated he received correspondence from the State Mayors Association and the retirement of Wade Danley whose last day will be June 30, 2015.

Mayor Hontz stated we also lost two of our part time officers, Dan Zettelmoeyer and Josh Dreisbach. They have both resigned as part time police officers to accept employment with the Buffalo Valley Regional Police Department at a much higher rate. That currently leaves three part time officers.

CHARGER: Mayor Hontz said they are having issues with the Dodge Charger such as the suspension and brakes. Chief Witherite called a fleet manager who deals in police vehicles and that year of Charger was a problem because the braking system was not adequate for the high performance car. Now we are having trouble with the bushings in the front. It is approaching 80,000 miles. He said Council may want to think about trading it in getting something with a five year, 100,000 mile warranty. Chief said he spoke with Edie about the possibility of trading in a street truck on a police vehicle. Chief Witherite asked the Council to think about this.

PAGERS: Chief Witherite told Council he is eliminating the pagers. They cost \$150/quarter and they are not needed.

INT'L PROP CODE: This is still being worked on.

SALT SHED: Dan told Council we are going to have someone survey the land up near the maintenance building for a possible salt storage shed.

GENERATOR: We are still waiting on an estimate from Jim Havrilla for a generator.

COMPUTER BACKUP: Edie said she and Sergeant Faux are still working on the quote from MePush on backing up the computers.

**ELECTRIC
CONTRACT:**

Solicitor Tira stated the existing contract runs through 2017 at a cost of \$74.50 \$/Mwh and the proposed extension would be at \$66.72. They would spread this savings over the current contract through the end of the extension which would result in \$69.95. By doing it this way the rate is brought down immediately from \$74.50 to \$69.95. This would become effective May 1, 2015. The other option would be to not modify the current rate and start the discount in 2018 which would be the \$66.72 but then the discount would be lost for the next 2 ½ years. President Miller stated she believes this rate is wonderful and glad the residents are getting a break. The contract goes through 2022 and applies to all customers.

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the blended rate. 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.

**COPIER
LEASE:**

The current copier lease is up in June. The borough normally leases copiers. The one in the borough office goes to the police department. Topp Copy will take the old one in the police department and get rid of it. The cost for a 60 month lease which is like the one we have would be \$142.71. The next size up would be for 60 months at \$161.72. Edie feels the one for \$142.71 will work well for the office. A resident asked if any other quotes were received for copiers. Edie said she did not get any others because they have had very good results with Topp Copy. We are happy with the service and cost.

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Janet Rump to approve the 60 month lease from Topp Copy for \$142.71. 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.

PAVING ESTIMATE:

The paving estimate came in at \$43,370.00. The budgeted amount was \$26,723. This does not include Mulberry Alley. After much discussion, Council decided they need to prioritize the paving list. This will be on the Agenda for the Council meeting June 1, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chief Witherite asked for an Executive Session following this evenings meeting for an investigative matter.

BRUCE REARICK:

Mr. Rearick lives at 706 Liberty Street. He submitted an estimate for the stone wall at his property. He said it is hard for trucks and fire trucks to make the corner. After much discussion, Council asked Edie to contact Mr. Rearick and find out exactly what he wants. This will be on Agenda for the June 1, 2015 Council Meeting.

WADE: DANLEY:

A motion was made by Janet Rump, seconded by Jack Marshall to accept the retirement of Wade Danley effective June 30, 2015. 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.

YARD SALES:

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the annual Watsonstown Yard Sales to be held on September 26, 2015. The Borough will also include the application/announcement in the newsletter. WABA would also like help from the police department for traffic control. 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.

BOROUGH MANAGER:

Edie said she felt the crew did a very nice job to get everything ready for Memorial Day.

Edie also told Council the Greenway Committee has done a lot of work on the Greenway project. Creative Landscapes presented the committee with a beautiful drawing of what it hopefully will look like down in front of the Dollar store. Edie, Janet and Ralph met with a representative of PennDot concerning the traffic signal at Brimmer and Main. We have met

with Jim Havrilla and he will be preparing and estimate for the lights down by the Canal Boat Pavilion that was budgeted for.

JANET RUMP:

Janet thanked Cindy Crozier and Sandy Hendricks for the nice job they did down by Buck's Plumbing. This was at their own expense and on their own time.

Janet also said she felt it was beautiful up by the Legion.

RALPH YOUNG:

Ralph spoke about the police overtime and part time police budgets. He asked why when Wade Danley was retiring in June was he able to spend \$22.09 more than the allowable amount in his uniform budget. The other officers have not spent anywhere near that amount yet this year. Chief Witherite said this is in the contract. In years past they have purchased guns, badges, etc. He would like Council to consider this when negotiating the contract. Solicitor Tira stated this should probably be discussed with the Personnel Committee.

Ralph asked why the tax money has only come in twice since the beginning of the tax season. He said he realizes Pat has had complications. Ralph asked the Deputy if she was allowed to handle money and she said no. She was only appointed because someone had to be. Ralph asked if she was only allowed to receive taxes. Solicitor Tira said she only steps in when the tax collector is incapacitated. Mrs. Hontz stated she did nothing. President Miller asked what responsibilities would actually transfer to the deputy. Solicitor Tira stated as the deputy she has the ability to act as the tax collector if the tax collector is incapacitated. Mrs. Hontz stated Pat was in the cemetery on Memorial Day. Mrs. Hontz stated as far as she knows all the reports and monies have been handed in. She also took her to the county. Solicitor Tira said someone should check with Ms. Yeager to see if everything has been turned in. He also said the law requires monthly remittals.

CROSSWALKS:

Jack asked again about the possibility of pedestrian crosswalks and in signage. This will be on the Agenda for the June 1, 2015 Council Meeting.

**POLICE
PATCH:**

Mayor Hontz passed around the new police patch for Council to see. A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Jack Marshall to approve the patch. 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.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Janet Rump, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa K. Davis
Assistant Secretary