

**Watsonstown Borough
Council Meeting
June 2, 2014**

OPENING: The June 2, 2014 Watsonstown 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, Watsonstown. 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, Harry Hefty, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Mayor Dave Hontz, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

OTHERS PRESENT: A. Wislock, Jim Ritter, Judy Bergman, Ken Hollenbach, Buzz Reynolds, Barry Bastian, Robin Fisher, Kayla Fisher, Pat Yeager, Vera Young, Mary Phillips, Sandy Hendricks, Virginia Wirth, Dave Powell, Cindy Crozier, William West and Liz Folk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the Council Meeting minutes from May 5, 2014 and the Committee Meeting minutes from May 27, 2014. 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.

BILLS & TRANSFERS: A motion was made by Jack Marshall, seconded by Harry Hefty to approve bills & transfers in the amount of \$241,008.75. Jack Marshall also asked for more detail regarding larger bills. He used the bill for Murray Motors in the amount of \$2413.73 as an example. Edie gave Council further information regarding that particular invoice and said further information will be given in the future.

BRUSH PICK-UP: William West of 703 Main Street thanked the Borough in advance for brush pick-up. He said it's a great service that the Borough offers.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK: Solicitor Tira said if Council has nothing further to add, he will incorporate the information from Janet Rump into the employee handbook and have it ready for Council.

BUCKET TRUCK: Edie received an email from Middletown Borough regarding a possible bucket truck. Their Borough has downsized and they have trucks not being used. They have 2 linemen that have attended lineman school in

Georgia that could use some experience. In exchange for use of their bucket truck, these linemen would come and work for 2 weeks with our Borough electricians. Edie immediately contacted Solicitor Tira and was advised it was workable. Middletown will pay wages and workmen's compensation for their employees and at no charge to Watsontown except to cover their bucket truck with liability insurance and training for their 2 employees. Middletown's Council meets tonight, Solicitor Tira has prepared an inter-municipal agreement and they are ready to move forward if our Council is ready. Solicitor Tira provided Council copies of the agreement for review. Janet Rump asked for confirmation that the truck is inspected, certified and ready for the road. Edie said Middletown is in our "electric" group. Various comments and questions were asked regarding the truck and insurance. Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the inter-municipal agreement between Middletown Borough and Watsontown Borough. 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.

**POWER
OUTAGE:**

Pat Yeager asked if any information was available regarding the latest power outage in the Borough. Edie said last week's was a squirrel and the outage before that was a tripped transformer near Page's. She said Jim Harvilla is working with PPL and so far they have seen nothing coming from their system into our system.

**POLICE
CRUISER:**

President Miller said Council was presented information by Chief Derr regarding the purchase of a new police cruiser. The price of \$37,768.27 is for the complete package. Harry Hefty confirmed with Edie that we have the money in the budget. Janet Rump made a motion to approve the purchase of the police cruiser. A second was given by Jack Marshall. 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.

**CHEVRONS
ADDED TO
POLICE
CRUISERS:**

The Mayor said the new cruiser should include the addition of a chevron on the back of the vehicle, conforming to state police vehicles. The Mayor stated it's an issue of public safety. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Janet Rump to add chevrons to all police cruisers as recommended by Mayor Hontz. 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.

**3 POLICE
VEHICLES/
INSURANCE:**

A resident asked if the Borough will have 3 police cruisers. Chief Derr said eventually the Borough will advertise and sell the oldest vehicle. All 3 vehicles will be used for the rest of this year and Council will choose to list and sell it. The resident asked in the interim, we will carry insurance on 3, to which Chief answered yes. President Miller said the vehicles are covered under an umbrella policy.

MAYOR: nothing

**POLICE
DEPARTMENT:** written

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:** written

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:** nothing

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:** written

**BOROUGH
SOLICITOR:** Solicitor Tira requested an Executive Session following tonight's meeting for litigation.

**JE MEYERS -
CEMETERY
WALL:** Edie said Mr. Meyers was in today and shored up the cemetery wall today.

**GREENWAY –
TURBOTVILLE
LANDSCAPE:** Edie received an email late this afternoon that the landscaping things that were ordered and approved by Council and ordered from Turbotville Landscape are in. She said she is going to send an email tomorrow to the Greenway Committee to see when the Borough crew is to pick up it up.

**PAVING -
SOUTH MAIN
STREET -
MRSA FIXING
SEWER MAIN:**

Eddie said Milton Regional Sewer had to fix the main sewer line on South Main Street. They asked if they fixed the sewer main, would we consider paying for the paving of the street. Eddie reminded Council the Borough still owns the lines and they (MRSA) would do the fixing of the main, it wouldn't be our cost and the paving would be our contribution. President Miller asked if there was money still in the sewer fund to use for the paving, to which Eddie said yes there is money and yes we can use it for the paving. Harry Hefty made a motion to approve the payment of the paving on South Main Street from the Sewer Fund. A second was given by Janet Rump. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**GARAGE
ROOF:**

Eddie said the roof at the Borough Maintenance Garage was started this morning.

**GREENWAY/
ELECTRICAL
WORK:**

A resident asked Eddie if there was any movement yet with electric for the Greenway Project at the Canal Boat. Eddie said our electricians need to speak with our electrical engineer, Jim Harvilla, but they had been very busy preparing for Memorial Day. Eddie said it is on the list of things to be done. Jim Harvilla will advise our electricians so it's correct. Eddie said the electricians do not feel comfortable making the decision. She said it will depend on Jim Harvilla's schedule and he's from near Wilkes-Barre.

**TURBOTVILLE
LANDSCAPE:**

When working with the Greenway Committee, Janet Rump understood Ryan from Turbotville Landscape would come to assist our crew in properly planting the trees and help with the landscaping down at the Canal Boat. She asked if he was still willing to do that. Eddie said she believes he is but she wants to see what day might suit him.

**TRUCK
TRAFFIC/
GPS ADDRESS
FOR MORAN:**

Robin Fisher spoke regarding his property at the corner of 8th and Broad Streets. He asked if there is anything that can be done about the trucks turning onto that road when they aren't supposed to be. Robin said Chief Derr was up there the other day and a truck was only approx. 3 feet from his front porch. Robin put a post in and the Borough has put signs up but they still turn on that road. Truck drivers claim they don't see the signs. They have run through the yard of a neighbor across the street. He said the last time a truck took wires down and hit the neighbor's car. He said there has got to be something that can be done because one of these times they are going to end up in his living room. President Miller asked if Chief Derr had anything to add or anything we can do. Chief Derr said what is happening is Moran Industries has several addresses and truck

drivers are using GPS systems. Depending on the address they use in their GPS, it will cause trucks to turn onto that street. Mr. Fisher asked if there was anything Moran could do with MapQuest or GPS. He said his daughter's car has been hit twice. Chief Derr confirmed he's prepared reports and there are regulation "no truck" signs on the street. President Miller said she understood Mr. Fisher's concern. A resident asked if the police department has arrested anyone concerning these incidents. Chief Derr said some are cited and information is gathered on others for the homeowner to pursue. Chief Derr suggested painting "no trucks allowed" in large letters on the street as a possible solution. Mr. Fisher said often the truck drivers claim they do not see the street signs. President Miller asked if anyone has talked with Moran about the problem yet. Chief Derr said Moran is aware of the problem because sometimes they are working in the area. He said there is no other place to put the signs and they are legally right where they have to be. Janet Rump said she likes the idea of painting on the road. Solicitor Tira suggested signs before trucks make the turn onto the street. A few people mentioned the use of Spanish signs as well for those truck drivers that do not speak English. Sargent Faux said drivers are required to be able to communicate with local law enforcement in English. He said the ability to read, write and speak in English, not proficiently but in some form, is a requirement of their CDL. He suggested possibly the universal line through a semi-tractor trailer. Sandy Hendricks spoke of tractor trailers on Main Street and damage to her tree.

**CONDITIONS
ON MAIN
STREET:**

There was some discussion regarding the manholes on Main Street. President Miller asked Edie about the possible need for risers and if we had notified Penn Dot yet. Edie said she didn't have an answer, though it was talked of at our last meeting.

**POT HOLE
CORNER OF
LIBERTY &
THIRD STREETS:**

The Mayor said he had a private conversation with Dan Folk regarding a pothole on Liberty Street between Third and Fourth Streets that has been there for about 9 months. Dan said it is on paving list for summer. President Miller asked if it could be temporarily repaired until the paving is done. Dan Folk said cold patch was put in this winter because the hole was deep. Pat Yeager said "when this winter...I was on Council and head of streets until December 31st so you're telling me sometime between January and the end of March they put cold patch in there and it all came out already". Dan said most of it came out. Pat asked why cold patch was used during the winter and Dan said "because everyone was complaining". Pat said "I'm not buying it". President Miller asked if something temporarily could be done until the pavers are here. Edie said cold patch was put in the hole. Ralph Young said something needs to be done and it shouldn't wait until August, the hole has been there for 3 years. He also spoke of "hot patch". Various people were making suggestions and

comments. President Miller said the guys would look to see what can be done just until the paving gets done.

**VEGETATION
REMINDER FOR
NEWSLETTER:**

Janet Rump said everything is coming into full bloom now and she asked that something be put in the newsletter reminding people to trim their trees so people can walk underneath them on the sidewalks. Vegetation is also coming out of people's fences, into the alleyways and out over the sidewalks. People need to keep things trimmed up. Edie said the newsletter is done for the month but it would be put in next month's newsletter.

**ADJOURN TO
EXECUTIVE:**

There being no further business to come before Council, Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Jack Marshall to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

**RE-OPEN
TO PUBLIC
SESSION:**

The meeting was re-opened to public session at 8:26 p.m. Buzz Reynolds Edie Moser and Brendi Brooke were present.

**MUTUAL
SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT:**

Jack Marshall made a motion to approve the Mutual Settlement Agreement and Release, seconded by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNED
BACK TO
EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

There being no further business to come before Council, a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Ralph Young to adjourn back to Executive Session at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi Brooke
Secretary/Treasurer