

**Watson town Borough  
Council Meeting  
June 1, 2015**

**OPENING:** The June 1, 2015 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held in Council Chambers. Brendi Brooke gave the opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Harriet Miller, Vice President Ralph Young, Janet Rump, Dan Folk, Jack Marshall, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite, and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Harry Hefty arrived at 7:38 PM.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Phillips, Becky Hontz, David Plotts, Pat Yeager, Ken Hollenbach, Virginia Wirth, Brent Frey, Sandy Hendricks, Cindy Crozier and Greg Miller.

**APPROVAL of MINUTES:** Janet Rump made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk, to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2015 Council Meeting, the May 20, 2015 Special Meeting and the May 26, 2015 Committee Meeting. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**BILLS & TRANSFERS:** Jack Marshall made a motion, seconded by Ralph Young to approve the bills & transfers for the month of May 2015 in the amount of \$360,576.93. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PAT YEAGER-TAX COLLECTOR:** Pat Yeager said she was here to answer questions raised at last week's meeting about tax collection. She said a report is turned in at the end of each month; April 30<sup>th</sup> was the end of the discount period. Because the county counts the "post-mark", she was unable to begin the reports until a day or two after April 30<sup>th</sup>; that is the reason the April report didn't come in as early as other month's reports. Pat referenced her illness as another

reason the April report came in later. Pat said the Deputy did exactly what she was asked to do; which was to go to Pat's house and make sure the mail was brought in and put on a pile so Pat could get to it. Pat said "she knows you wouldn't want Brendi doing for Edie what Edie didn't authorize"; the Deputy did exactly as she was asked to do. President Miller asked exactly what the Deputy's duties are; Solicitor Tira advised that the Deputy would act if the tax collector is incapacitated. Pat stated she wasn't incapacitated; members of Council stated she was, Pat stated she was only under anesthesia for a day. In conclusion Pat said Becky would have never been prepared for April's report due to its size. Janet asked if there is a due date; Pat said the county likes to have reports in by the 10<sup>th</sup>; she said ordinarily she has the report in by the 10<sup>th</sup>, this was the first time it wasn't in by the 10<sup>th</sup>; Edie verified Pat was correct. President Miller acknowledged the circumstance and the question was "what can Becky do and is she prepared to do it".

**BRUCE  
REARICK:**

Bruce Rearick referenced information he gave to Edie about his property at 706 Liberty Street; he is looking to have his stone wall at the corner of Liberty and Baylor moved. He has proposed moving the stop sign one foot and angling the wall out to the road; giving the corner of his property to the Borough to reconstruct this wall. He said the reconstruction of the wall will allow firetrucks easier access to Baylor. Council is in receipt of a copy of the quote in the amount of \$3,250.00 from Creative Landscapes. Janet said the Mayor has checked with someone from the fire company and they have stated there is enough clearance for firetrucks, there is no issue; for anyone wishing to see, arrangements could be made. The Mayor said since the last meeting the engine has been brought around both ways and it is to his knowledge access to Baylor Road from Liberty Street there was only ever one problem and that was with the extra- long ladder truck. Bruce Rearick confirmed that it wasn't a firetruck that hit his wall. Solicitor Tira asked if Mr. Rearick proposal was to dedicate "that" portion of land to the Borough; at which point the tape was inaudible. President Miller said it is something that needs considered by Council and it will be included at June Committee meeting.

**INT'L.  
PROPERTY  
MAINTENANCE  
CODE:**

Edie said this is still being worked on.

**SALT  
STORAGE  
SHED:**

Dan Folk said this is a work in process.

**GENERATOR:**

Edie said we are waiting on information from Jim Harvilla.

**COMPUTER  
BACK-UP:**

Eddie said she and Sargeant Faux have not resolved this yet.

**PAVING LIST:**

President Miller referenced the paving list given to Council.

**RAILROAD  
POST  
REPLACEMENT:**

Eddie spoke to the Mayor's inquiry regarding the guardrail post replacement along Pennsylvania Avenue. She said Dan went out to look at the poles previously purchased by the Borough; they are not in the best shape. Dan wasn't sure if any can be used, you'd have to dig down through the pile; to him it looked like a pile of scrap. There was speculation regarding how many were there; Eddie said she'd need to look at the invoice. Dan offered to go with the Mayor to look at them; the Mayor said he had been out to look at them today. According to him, "some are still banded and straight at a dye"; he thinks what's needed is a truck with "pick" ability because there are some that are in good shape and we could find some good material out there. The Mayor, the Solicitor and President Miller all mentioned people/places with such a truck, including Charlie Mingle of Mingle Timber Harvesting. Eddie said as soon as the crew completes their current swing project at the park, she will get them on this. President Miller was to get a phone number for Eddie.

**HEMLOCK  
ALLEY FIXED-  
TEMPORARILY:**

Eddie said the emergency paving on Hemlock Alley has been temporarily fixed. Dan and Ralph thought it was a little low; Eddie left a message for Lynn Watson but didn't hear back today; they are coming back to pave and finish it. She advised that Council could take Blackberry Alley between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Street off the paving list.

**PAVING  
BUDGET:**

President Miller said there was \$26,723.00 in the budget for paving and the paving estimate came in at \$39,870.00; she said if Council wanted to stay within the budget, something would need cut.

**MULBERRY  
ALLEY -  
STORM WATER  
STUDY:**

Eddie said she talked with Pat Ward after Council discussion last week regarding Mulberry Alley. He is going to study Uni-Tec's storm water study and he will be back in touch; she will have the information for the next Committee Meeting.

**COUNCIL TO  
PRIORITIZE  
THE PAVING  
LIST:**

Dan Folk clarified the paving list was in no particular order. Eddie said West 6<sup>th</sup> is very bad; all streets are marked; she encouraged Council to go look at the areas listed on the paving list. Harry Hefty referenced using monies in the Electric Fund as well as the real estate transfer tax money in the General Fund. President Miller said Council needs to go out and prioritize the list; the estimate is \$13,000.00 over the budgeted amount. She said Council may elect to go a little over budget for paving but not \$13,000.00 over the budget. The Street Committee compiled the list; the rest of Council was asked to go out and look at them then prioritize them.

It will be discussed further at the next Committee Meeting. Edie confirmed she has a call in regarding the alley near Sandy Hendrick's.

**PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS:**

Jack Marshall had previously mentioned pedestrian crossings in the business district; one at the Watson Inn, one at the red light at Main and Brimmer and one at the end of town near the park. Jack continued to speak regarding possible other locations. Solicitor Tira said to contact Penn Dot; municipal services will come in and look at it. President Miller asked if this was something that Council feels is necessary Penn Dot is contacted; it was clarified they are called pedestrian walkways; someone said every other town has them so why shouldn't Watson town have them. After further discussion, Penn Dot will be contacted.

**1<sup>st</sup> STREET BRIDGE:**

Edie said the quote from Mid-State Paving to fix the First Street Bridge was \$3,200.00; the damage was much greater than expected. The invoice for the repair came in at \$6,495.92; it is an increase of \$3,295.92. Ralph Young thinks the other side will need repaired in the next few years as well. There was further discussion regarding the bridge surface and the way it was constructed. Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the payment of \$6,495.92 to Mid-State Paving. 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

The Mayor suggested we contact Larson Design Group for sealant on the other side of the bridge. Edie is to call Larson Design Group to see if they have something that will slow down the deterioration of the other side of the bridge.

**CINDY CROZIER - TRUCK TRAFFIC STUDY:**

Cindy Crozier of Main Street spoke regarding traffic on Main Street. She spoke of a traffic study at Main and Brimmer and Main and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. She said the truck traffic through town is terrible 24/7. Edie said she sent a letter requesting a traffic study a week ago. Once the result of the study is done, they'd like to send a letter of interest out to Borough residents. Edie doesn't know how quickly the information from study will be back. Janet said Delaware Township intends to widen 8<sup>th</sup> Street for truck traffic but unfortunately the Borough doesn't have that option. There was further discussion regarding the problems with the lines on Main Street, truck traffic, Muncy, etc. Edie said an engineer from Penn Dot has said in order to make the intersection the way it should be, the homes on the corners would need to come down.

**POLICE  
STATION  
UPGRADES:**

The Mayor spoke of the estimate for the police station upgrade. Chief Witherite said the estimate for \$14,246.50 is for the first phase only, which includes walls and work stations; Edie said this cost is with Borough crew doing the demolition. Solicitor Tira asked the Chief if additional would be paid to this company. The Chief said the next phase would be for the flooring and then possibly replacement of the old furniture. Solicitor Tira stated the price on the quote is \$14,246.50 and if additional amounts come up and over the bid amount, there may be additional bidding requirements. Several people were talking at once, after further conversation, it was concluded Council would like to have the total project cost; Solicitor Tira advised two more quotes are needed for phase one and explained what amounts require (3) estimates and what amount falls under the bidding process.

**NEW RANGE  
OFFICER:**

Chief Witherite said Chief Josh Laidacker will be the new range officer at no cost to the Borough. He will qualify the department with firearms. He lives in West Milton but is the Chief of Police in Catawissa.

**POLICE  
DEPARTMENT:**

written

**FIRE &  
AMBULANCE:**

received prior

**EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT:**

nothing

**CODE  
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

**BOROUGH  
SOLICITOR:**

nothing

**BOROUGH  
MANAGER:**

written

**BOROUGH  
SECRETARY:**

nothing

**LIBRARY  
DONATION:**

A motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Ralph Young to pay our budgeted donation of \$7,500.00 to the Montgomery House Library. 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.

**PAT YEAGER:** Pat Yeager complimented the Warrior Run Fire Department, EMA's, the 911 Center and the Watson town Police Department on how good they are in an emergency. President Miller and Council agreed and said how well they work together.

**ETTINGERS:** The Mayor said Ettingers will be here mid-month to work on the monument at the cemetery. He also mentioned the bench near the monument was donated by Shirley Sechler.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before Council, Ralph Young made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to adjourn at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/ Treasurer