

**Watson town Borough Council  
Committee Meeting  
August 26, 2013**

**OPENING:** The August 26, 2013 Watson town Borough Committee Meeting was called to order by Council President Harriet Miller at 7:30 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Members present: President Harriet Miller, Vice President Harry Hefty, Jack Marshall, Ralph Young, Mary Phillips, Pat Yeager, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Chief Dennis Derr, Borough Manager Edie Moser, Public Works Supervisor Scott Winters and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke.

**VISITORS:** Lisa Davis, Becky Hontz, Janet Rump and Wendy Shoemaker

**EAST STATION - TURBOTVILLE FIRE HOUSE:** Tiffany Wertman spoke regarding the construction of the East Station - Turbotville Fire House. The Fire Board expected the bids to be in the \$500,000.00 range and the low bid came back at \$701,635.00. Some of the increase is due to “prevailing wages”. The plan has been changed to lower the costs. They have eliminated the kitchen for the time being and have changed the entry door from aluminum to an insulated HM door. After the changes, the low bidder was T. R. Ross Brothers at \$690,742.00. The architect is now working with T.R. Ross Brothers. The fire company has \$200,000.00 to put towards the project and they have been approved for two low interest loans. They expect to cover most of the costs. They do not feel they will need to approach the Borough for any funds, nor do they anticipate a need to increase taxes.

**WABA’s USE OF POOL HOUSE FOR STORAGE:** Wendy Shoemaker spoke on behalf of WABA. They are requesting permission to use the pool house for storage of items from the haunted trail and past events. These items are currently housed at the Warrior Run Social Hall in Allenwood. The fire department has requested WABA to remove their items, as they now need the room for storage. Harry Hefty said there was room in the pool house and WABA will need to take full responsibility for any/all damage or loss to their stored items. Harry Hefty made a motion to allow WABA to use the pool house for storage, at their own risk. A second was made by Mary Phillips. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**OUTDOOR  
SURVIVOR  
CLUB TO  
ADOPT/DONATE  
TREE:**

On behalf of the Outdoor Survivors 4H Club, Wendy Shoemaker asked for Council's permission to adopt/donate a 6 foot Serbian Spruce Christmas Tree, to be planted near the Canal Boat Pavilion. This tree will be used and lit for Christmas in conjunction with Santa's House. The club will take full responsibility for the tree. The club will place a plaque near the tree stating that it was donated by the Outdoor Survivors 4H Club. Bob Stoudt and Dave Hontz were contacted by the club to assure the proposed site would not interfere in any way with future construction and/or gas or water lines. Wendy provided a diagram of the area to Council for their reference. Once Council approves the tree, she will be working with Ryan from Turbotville Landscaping. A motion was made by Pat Yeager to approve the Outdoor Survivors Club's adoption/donation of a Serbian Spruce Christmas Tree. Jack Marshall gave a second. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY  
FENCE:**

Pat Yeager spoke regarding the cemetery fence. She mentioned taking the fence completely down and selling portions to purchase a new fence. The Mayor mentioned the restoration of the fence. Edie said \$2,000.00 has been set aside in the 2013 budget for the cemetery fence restoration. She also said there is \$65,000.00 in the Borough Perpetual Care Account that could be used towards the fence restoration. The Mayor spoke about what he thought the restoration would entail and the improvements that should be made including moving the fence along First Street up further on the bank. Harry Hefty asked if we could get an estimate for the restoration. Solicitor Tira said the Borough must get 3 quotes if the restoration is over \$10,000.00 and anything over \$18,000.00 needs to be put out to bid. Pat Yeager said to make sure the cemetery fence is kept in "old business" section of the agenda so the matter can be re-visited.

**ELECTRIC  
TRUCK:**

Harry Hefty spoke regarding a recent meeting of the Electric Committee. The Committee provided Council with information and costs regarding a new electric bucket truck. They have chosen a Freightliner M2-106 chassis and a Versa-Lift VO350MHI body at a total cost of \$193,161.00. Edie said \$100,000.00 was in the budget and \$9,638.64 was used on the new skid loader, leaving \$90,361.36 for a new or used electric bucket truck. Harry said the Electric Committee is looking into finance options. Solicitor Tira spoke regarding municipal lending options and regulations.

After much discussion, President Miller asked the Electric Committee to get financing information together as soon as possible for Council's review.

**NEW BACKHOE INFORMATION:**

Scott Winters was asked by the Electric Committee to check into prices on new backhoes. President Miller asked if repair costs had been checked into for the backhoe currently owned by the Borough. Pat Yeager explained the proposal given to Council for review. She said Five Star would give the Borough \$19,000.00 trade value on our backhoe, the first payment wouldn't be due for a year. Then, once a year, for the next five years, we would make a one-time payment of approx. \$19,000.00. At the end of five years, the Borough would own the new backhoe. The only thing the Borough would be responsible for would be the oil and filters, Five Star would take care of everything else. Harry Hefty said the electric, streets and cemetery funds could all be used for the purchase of a backhoe. Pat Yeager said the Borough's infrastructure is falling apart and the Borough needs good equipment to do the work. Council agreed the electric bucket truck was most important at this time but the backhoe would be tabled for budget time.

**BILLABLE HOURLY RATES:**

Scott provided Council with information regarding billable hourly rate recommendations. Current hourly rates being charged are from 2006. Solicitor Tira said the hourly rates could be amended without revising the current ordinance, which includes everything charged by the Borough. Harry Hefty made a motion to amend billable hourly rates, effective September 1, 2013, as recommended and researched by Scott Winters. A second was given by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Phillips	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**IMPROVEMENT TO WOMEN'S RESTROOM AT THE PARK:**

Mary Phillips said she attended a family reunion over the weekend and found the pavilions and restrooms in great shape. She asked if something could be provided or installed in the women's restrooms to put purses on. Mayor Hontz said a hook hung in each booth might be the answer. Council agreed.

**HIRE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:**

Jack Marshall spoke on behalf of the Personnel Committee. He said the Borough crew is down to 4 full time employees. The Personnel Committee had interviews with two people interested in part-time work with the Borough. Timothy Ranck and Jason Sandley are both residents

of the Borough. Considering today's economy, the committee's desire was to hire Borough residents. Jack Marshall made a motion to hire Jason Sandley and Timothy Ranck as part-time Borough employees. A second was given by Pat Yeager. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Phillips	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WAGES  
FOR  
PART-TIME  
HELP:**

Pat Yeager asked Council to consider an increase in wages for part-time employees. She said that our "permanent" part-time help should be paid at a higher wage than our "summer" part-time help. She asked that the increase be considered at budget time. Solicitor Tira recommended a conversation regarding wages should be held during an Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

President Miller said there would be an Executive Session following tonight's meeting. Solicitor Tira said the Executive Session would be for personnel and labor matters as well as litigation matters.

Mayor Hontz asked a question of Jack Marshall about a meeting held on Thursday, August 22, 2013. The meeting was regarding a personnel problem and items were discussed in privacy. The Mayor asked why the person being discussed at the meeting was told the content of the meeting. Solicitor Tira said this matter could be discussed during Executive Session. The Mayor proceeded to express his disappointment in private and personnel matters that are discussed in public. President Miller re-iterated such matters are for Executive Session only.

**CEMETERY  
STONE:**

Mayor Hontz spoke regarding the stone being donated to the Borough Cemetery by Gary Cronrath. He provided 4 copies of drawings for Council's review, of which he explained his plan for the placement of the stone and the design of the foundation. Delaware Township said they would waive the "set-back" rules for the placement of the stone once a diagram is provided. The Mayor would like to see the cemetery's established date on the stone as well. He said the stone is approx. \$6,000.00 and asked Council to provide the foundation for the stone, as was provided for other monuments in the Borough. Solicitor Tira said the cost of the foundation could be taken out of the Perpetual Care Fund. Council agreed the plan looks good and the Mayor will proceed with Gary Cronrath and Delaware Township.

**LETTER TO  
BE SENT TO  
UGI:**

Pat Yeager said saw cuts made by UGI at various street locations in the Borough are not sealed properly. She recommends a letter be sent to UGI requesting they correct the problems or the Borough will fix the areas and invoice UGI. There was also some discussion about a problem on Liberty Street involving PA American Water Company. Scott is to get specific locations and details in order for Solicitor Tira to proceed with a letter to UGI.

**REVIEW OF  
ALLEY PAVING  
CONTRACT/  
PAVING ISSUES:**

Pat Yeager spoke regarding possible property damage which might occur during alley paving. She said a copy of the paving contract was sent to Solicitor Tira for review. Solicitor Tira said Penn Dot Publication 408 is included in the contract. This publication states the contractor is responsible for any repair, replacement or restitution of public or private property. The contractor needs notified if any claims of damage are received by the Borough. Mayor Hontz then spoke about last year's paving in the alley between Ash and Main Streets. He said the paver dug approximately 3 feet into the ground in 2 different locations and water is now ponding in the alley. Solicitor Tira said last year's paver needs contacted regarding this damage. Pat then spoke regarding the paving being done by the water company on Third Street. She said this project is moving along smoothly and progressing quickly and they are doing a great job.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

Pat, Scott and Solicitor Tira said the issues on Elm Street would be discussed during tonight's Executive Session.

**BOAT RAMP  
EROSION:**

Jack Marshall asked Edie to contact the PA Fish Commission about help to repair the erosion of the boat ramp.

**SEWER PUMP  
STATION:**

Jack Marshall said the new sewer pump station is really looking nice now that the paving is complete. Pat Yeager asked for a status on Council's tour of the new pump station. Edie said she would check into when it will be and advise.

**MIKE  
WEAVER'S  
SEWER  
LICENSE:**

Mike Weaver mentioned to Scott that his sewer license will run out at the end of the year. The Borough has always paid for the license but Edie said she didn't think the license was necessary. The license pertained to our sewer plant and the Borough no longer has a sewer plant, only pump stations. Council agreed there was no longer a need for Mike Weaver's sewer license.

**SEWER PLANT  
INSURANCE  
COVERAGE:**

Pat Yeager asked if the Borough had dropped the insurance coverage on the sewer plant. Edie said Gloria Buhl advised against dropping the insurance until everything is conveyed. Edie will check with Gloria again.

**9/11  
MEMORIAL  
EVENT:**

Mayor Hontz spoke about the 9/11 Memorial Event being planned by he and Scott, representing the Borough's Emergency Management. They have planned a church service on 9/11/13 at the First Presbyterian Church at 9:00 a.m. and coffee and donuts to be served following the service. They are also working with WABA to organize a private picnic for the police, fire, EMS and military at the Watsonstown Park at 6:00 p.m. Help and financial support is being sought from area businesses to make this event a success. Mayor Hontz said West Milton State Bank and the American Legion are providing banners to be hung announcing the event. Solicitor Tira advised the Mayor to check with Penn Dot regarding the dimensions of banners hanging across Route 405. Borough churches have been asked to ring bells at 8:45 a.m. & 9:03 a.m. Council and the public are encouraged to come out and show support for all first responders.

**BUCKLE UP  
PENNSYLVANIA:**

Chief Derr said he had received information regarding grant money for the Buckle Up Pennsylvania Program. This year's program is a teen seatbelt mobilization and will run from 9/9/13 through 9/22/13. The grant money will help cover the costs associated with extra police officers.

**WABA  
HALLOWEEN  
PARADE and  
CELEBRATION:**

President Miller said she was in receipt of WABA's request to conduct their annual Halloween parade starting on Elm Street and ending at the park, beginning at 5:30 p.m. on October 31, 2013. Pat Yeager made a motion to approve WABA's request. A second was made by Mary Phillips. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Phillips	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**HALLOWEEN  
HOURS:**

Harry Hefty made a motion to approve Halloween hours within the Borough as 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on October 31, 2013. Jack Marshall gave a second. A roll vote was taken as follows:

Young	- yes	Marshall	- yes
Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

An announcement is to be included in this month's newsletter regarding Halloween and the 9/11 Memorial Service.

**WARRIOR RUN  
CROP WALK:**

Eddie said in review of the Warrior Run Crop Walk request, she noticed that the Warrior Run School District was listed as the certificate holder. She will notify Pastor May to have it changed to the Borough. Harry Hefty made a motion to approve the Warrior Run Crop Walk to be held on Sunday, October 13, 2013. A second was given by Mary Phillips. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yeager	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**HRG  
ACT 14  
NOTIFICATION:**

President Miller asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the letter from HRG. Solicitor Tira said the letter was notification from MRSA that they were applying to amend their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for their wastewater treatment facility. This was a result of adding the Northern Neighbors Sewer Improvements Project to MRSA's cap load. No motion/vote is required.

**COVERT  
ACTION  
CONTRACT:**

Harry Hefty said Covert Action was in contact with him regarding next year's 4th of July Celebration. Harry said Mifflinburg was looking to book them for the same day. We would like to have Covert Action perform again. They are going to mail the contract and we should have it by the next Council meeting.

**SIGNED  
PAVING  
CONTRACT:**

Eddie said the paving contract has NOT been signed and returned yet. Pat Yeager wanted to clarify that the paving bill will not be paid until a signed contract is received. Eddie said she would make another phone call tomorrow.

**DEAD  
TREES AT  
THE PARK  
& FIRST  
STREET**

Scott Winters said there are 2 trees at the Park and 1 tree at the corner of First Street, all are dead. Tim of B&B Tree Service gave a quote of \$1500.00 to cut down the trees and grind the tree stumps. Eddie said the trees have been marked with yellow ribbon so Council can go down and look at the trees before making a decision. Council asked Eddie to put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

**CAMERAS  
AT THE PARK**

Scott Winters spoke about a recent incident in a Park restroom. The sinks in the bath house were used as toilets. Scott said Council had talked about getting trail cameras for the Park. Though motion lights were installed, they are not deterring such acts as mentioned. Pat Yeager

made a motion to approve the purchase of 2 trail cameras for use at the Park. Jack Marshall gave a second. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Phillips	- yes
Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**CHANGE ORDERS FROM DELAWARE TOWNSHIP:**

Edie spoke regarding change orders received from Delaware Township in the following amounts:

Change Order #5 - \$23,700.00
Change Order #6 - <u>\$ 4,160.32</u>
\$27,860.32

Council was polled and agreed previously to Change Order #5 but there are still questions regarding the location of Change Order #6. Harry Hefty made a motion to pay Charge Order #5 from the Sewer Fund. Change Order #6 was tabled for next week’s meeting allowing Edie time to get more information. A second was given by Ralph Young. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Marshall	- yes	Young	- yes
Miller	- yes	Yeager	- yes
Phillips	- yes	Hefty	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

**WEED CONTROL:**

Ralph Young said a resident has been in contact with him about weeds growing down near the old sewer plant property (Emery’s). The weeds are extremely high and an invasive plant is growing up the pine trees. Harry Hefty mentioned weeds growing on this side of the river bridge as well. There was much discussion about weed spraying throughout the Borough and grass being ruined because of it. President Miller asked Scott to have the crew take care of the weeds on Borough property around the Emery’s property.

**REPAIRS AT THE PARK:**

Jack Marshall said the window latches in the Park pavilions need replaced. He also said the refrigerator in Pavilion #2 isn’t working. The church lost milk stored in the fridge for the Kids Café this summer. He asked if we could post something in the newsletter asking for a donation of the refrigerator.

**CHANGES  
TO AGENDA/  
PACKETS:**

Pat Yeager asked that Solicitor Tira's itemized invoice be included in Council's packets and also "old business" to be included on the agenda. Edie said Solicitor Tira's invoice will be included with "Bills and Transfers" and "old business" will be added to the next agenda.

**HYMN  
SING-ALONG:**

The Mayor asked if the Hymn Sing-Along at the Canal Boat Pavilion on October 13, 2013 could be included in this month's newsletter.

**CANAL BOAT  
PAVILION:**

Harry Hefty said the picnic table issue has been resolved but there are 2 other issues, per Bob Stoudt. One item needs finished up before it gets turns over to the Borough and the other item is something that can be taken care of once it's turned over.

**WRCC  
PROPERTY:**

Pat Yeager said she hasn't had a chance to look into the donation of property by the Warrior Run Community Corporation.

**ADJOURN TO  
EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

There being no further business to come before Council, at 8:45 p.m. a motion was made by Harry Hefty, seconded by Ralph Young to adjourn to Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke  
Secretary/Treasurer