

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 20, 2015**  
**[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Frank Halderman in the Bellefonte Borough Municipal Building.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Council remained standing for a moment of silence. It was requested that cell phones either be placed on vibrate or turned off.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Brachbill, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Spicer

Members Excused: Beigle, Brown, Harvey, Walker, Li

Officials Present: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager  
Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mayor Wilson

Staff Present: Chief Weaver

Guests: Romaine B. Naylor; Tim Schreffler; J. T. Newlin; Dave Kurk;  
Sue Hannegan; Troy Knecht; Nancy Perkins; James H. Dunne;

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Bellefonte Historical and Cultural Association (BHCA) - James Dunne presented a proposal to move the Freight Warehouse from the Waterfront District to Talleyrand Park. Mr. Dunne presented pictures of the Freight Building in its current location and a picture of where they would like to place it in Talleyrand Park, which would be next to the playground and the cabooses, at the opposite end of the area from the train station. This building was built as a site-specific building. The shape of the building was determined by the location of the railroad tracks. The building was initially used as an agricultural implements warehouse. The first person to use the building was Samuel Haupt. He used the building through 1904. Between 1904 and 1911 it was used as an oil storage area for Bellefonte Fuel and Supply, which was located down the street. Mr. Dunne showed a map from 1887 with the Freight Station circled.

The benefits of site relocation are: preservation of an historic transportation building, which dates to at least 1870; removal will save demolition costs for the BAIDA or a prospective developer and make the full 4.2 acre tract available for development; it

will be placed adjacent to the railroad tracks, an appropriate site for a freight station; it will be visible to train excursions and can be used as an educational tool.

The proposed use for the building is a Kayak Museum. Since 1965 Bellefonte has been home to a kayak slalom now known as the Sunnyside Paddling Park, located on Spring Creek just below the Lamb Street Bridge. It is an official Olympic training site where whitewater slalom gates are hung throughout the year. It attracts visitors from across the state and region to Bellefonte. It is home to the Mach 1 Slalom Racing Team, which includes all skill levels. A museum would highlight the history of Sunnyside Paddling Park and its participants over the years as well as the changes in the equipment. There will be a display of the making of a kayak and other educational displays.

The BHCA needs to take this to HARB and get estimates in so they have a lot of work still to do.

Dave Kurtz addressed Council regarding kayaking in Bellefonte. In 1963 he took a group of four kids, who were Boy Scouts in Explorer Post 32, who were learning the skills of whitewater paddling to the World Championships in Austria. The result of that particular event in 1963 was he was the best C1 paddler representing the United States and ended up in 17th place. They came home and felt more needed to be done about paddling. It needs to be a daily thing and not just a weekend activity. He investigated the potential for having a training center in Spring Creek because he knew the waters of Spring Creek flowed the year round. They settled on the Sunnyside Paddling Park, which is approximately 1/4 mile downstream from Talleyrand Park. They have been doing that for 50 years and therefore are historical in Bellefonte. That site is one of the very best in the whole United States for training youth and new people in the sport of whitewater slalom and other whitewater paddling activities. Bellefonte has a real feather in its cap with the Sunnyside Paddling Park. Since that time, they have collected a lot of materials and need to build the presence from the past by having an active boating museum. He has offered to take care of the finances for transferring it to the site and building a museum. There is limited space at the Sunnyside Paddling Park and there is not space to place the building there. By putting the building in Talleyrand Park, there is better access and would be a much better focus on showing something towards Bellefonte. Mayor Wilson commends BHCA for initiating this and to Dave for all the years he has put into the youth of this area. Mayor Wilson feels that is a perfect place to relocate that building.

They are in the process of building another building at the Sunnyside Paddling Park across the other side of the stream to get away from crossing the railroad tracks on a daily basis. Romyne Naylor was one of the first paddlers in Dave's classes.

Mr. Halderman mentioned there is a bad lightning storm outside. If the power goes out, the meeting will be adjourned until the next meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

(The following items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of

these items unless members of Council request specific items to be removed for separate action.)

- Minutes - Approval of April 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- Correspondence - Letter from HBI re Big Spring Festival (May 17th)
- Correspondence - Letter request from Herbie's Home Town Loop (August 15th)
- Mayor - Police Report
- Mayor - Police Exonerations
- Finance - April 2015 Treasurer's Report
- Finance - March 2015 Voucher Summary: \$949,095.61
- New Business - Banner Resolution for Relay for Life
- New Business - Authorization for Amendment to 2013 CDBG Contract #C000059078

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Mr. Brachbill requested the Herbie's Hometown Loop Correspondence be pulled out for discussion. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda with the correspondence regarding Herbie's Hometown Loop removed.

- Correspondence - Letter request from Herbie's Home Town Loop (August 15) - Mr. Brachbill feels there are many things they are working on resolving. It is also in conjunction with another activity in Bellefonte that requested use of the park.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to table this until some of the other processes they are going through are achieved. Mr. Stewart suggested giving them permission to plan for that day so they can work on the PennDOT permit process. Mr. Brachbill removed his motion to table and made a motion to approve the request to have Herbie's Home Town Loop on August 15 pending resolution of all coordination items. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. They would be notified that there are no markings on the street. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **WRITTEN**

- An email from Cynthia L. Hahn, C-NET Executive Director, informing Council that she has received permission to air the Pennsylvania Association of Borough's program that aired on PCN about Volunteer Fire Companies, Volunteer Recruitment, etc. multiple times on C-NET. There will be no impact to the Borough's C-NET dues. Mr. Stewart will inform Council when he knows the dates that it will be shown.

The program is also available on the PSAB website, which is boroughs.org.

- A letter from Mary C. McMurtrie, Bill Walk, and the Bellefonte Easter Egg Hunt Committee. They thanked the Borough for their assistance with the Easter Egg Hunt. They would like to reserve Talleyrand Park for March 26, 2016.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the request to use Talleyrand Park March 26, 2016 for the Bellefonte Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. They will be using the entire park. This year they used 16,000 eggs. A voice vote was unanimous.

- A letter from Joleen Hindman, Area Manager, FirstEnergy Corp - West Penn Power informing that they will be doing tree trimming along power lines out of the Bishop circuit in Bellefonte Borough and Spring Township. Each property owner that will be affected will receive a postcard regarding this. The contractor doing the work will be Asplundh Tree Service. Mr. Stewart will contact West Penn Power to see if more details are available.

- A note from PennDOT announcing that the work on the Milesburg Truss Bridge will begin Wednesday, April 22. It is an extensive repair project and during the work there will be one-lane traffic. Traffic will be detoured on state routes.

### **ORAL**

- Denning Mason is the new president of the Bellefonte Teener League. He was advised by some men in the league that there are leaks in the waterline to the concession stand. The leak is under the building, under the ground and by the shed where the mower is stored. There is also a leak in the third restroom. He is not sure whose responsibility it is to repair that. Mr. Stewart will have the Water Department crew take a look at it and then they will be in contact with Mr. Mason.

Mr. Mason mentioned there are all the normal baseball teams and now there is something called Travel Teams. The problem he is addressing is that Governor's Park has traditionally been used by the Teener League. Mr. Menna has been scheduling travel teams for Governor's Park facilities for practice. The Teener League schedule was made and some of the teams are scheduled for Governor's Park. It was also mentioned that Penn State Baseball is using the field to practice, two travel teams and Pleasant Gap Legion. Mr. Mason is concerned because there is not enough time to practice with the various number of teams they have.

Mr. Halderman would rather see Bellefonte kids play there rather than kids from another town or out of the Borough. The travel teams were using the Shaner Fields until they had to pay a lot of money to use the field.

Mr. Halderman turned this over to the Parks & Recreation for discussion and recommendation.

- There will be a CCMPO Meeting. The main concern is that PennDOT will be paving Allegheny Street. It will be at least six weeks before any work would begin.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Tim Schreffler presented his 2014 Annual Fire Report. He outlined some of his concerns for the past year. In the course of the past 8-10 months they have noticed a change in the fire community, fire service for various reasons. Some of them are the

challenges of training, the challenges of time and the time constraints. They notice a reduction of help in the daytime hours. During the daytime they have four to six firefighters. As officers they discussed what they need to do. They increased their responses. Initially in downtown Bellefonte it was called a high hazard spot. They expanded it six to ten blocks, which means if they have an incident in that blocked district they automatically have responses from out of town - Pleasant Gap, Alphas, Milesburg and Walker Township on standby. Every municipality is having the same problem as Bellefonte. They need to look at the future and what needs to be done in Bellefonte to increase recruitment and retention. They are discussing this with some resources outside of Pennsylvania. He welcomes any suggestions from Council to address the issue.

Mr. Halderman suggested drafting a letter to be sent to local employers asking them to permit their firefighter employees to leave work to fight a fire. Chief Schreffler felt the letter would be helpful.

On Thursday Chief Schreffler is going to be working with 8-12 year olds on "Bring Your Children to Work Day." He will have 37 of them at the Training Site in Pleasant Gap.

Mr. Halderman said there is a high school program where a fire instructor teaches in school for an hour or two a week in school. Chief Schreffler feels you need to get your foot in the door with schools and possibly recruit Junior Firefighters. Chief Schreffler feels you could go in and give a talk on volunteerism.

Mr. DeCusati feels a discussion should be started with Council regarding the Background Checks that will be required. He feels the firefighters should not have to pay for those checks. The new law goes into effect July 1, 2015.

Mrs. Dunne reported they are pursuing initiatives to give active firefighters some tax incentives. Chief Schreffler suggested a scholarship program where every firefighter that goes after certification is paid for. This went through in a very high fashion. Currently approximately 40 were put through certification with the Act 13 funds. The other thing they did with the Act 13 money is to use that money for membership and training.

Chief Schreffler said they are up to 121 calls so far this year.

(tape turned here)

Mutual Aid is reciprocal. We help them and they help us.

They continue to explore ways to increase capabilities downtown. They put some special calls on their box alarms where Bellefonte Borough will receive a call for a major incident. That will be automatic. 911 will make the call. That will increase response time to get there.

The volunteers are in the organization because they want to be there. Bellefonte is one of 2,400 volunteer companies in the United States out of 40,000 that have reached the plateau of raising the ISO rating from three to four. Chief Schreffler feels something that has helped is the apparatus in the Borough as well as the Certifications and Trainings.

- Draft Safety Committee meeting minutes from April 8, 2015, are in the packet for review.

- Draft IDA meeting minutes from April 8, 2015, are in the packet for review.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Chief Weaver reviewed the Police reports. He wanted to clarify what "Victim Notification" means. If there is a domestic violence situation, and the person is taken into custody, committed to the prison and that individual gets bailed out or released, the Police Department is notified by 911, and they notify the victim immediately that the individual is getting released. The traffic stops went up from 35 in February to 140 in March. Chief Weaver had a color-coded board with the incidents that he will have at each Council meeting. This will show where the concentration of activity is. The board is updated weekly.

- Mayor Wilson reported in a previous meeting that the officers would have blue tickets that would show they checked merchants' doors. He has received feedback from some of the merchants that are appreciative of that service.

Mayor Wilson feels the people that are handling permitting for solicitations need some clarification or education. There seems to be some confusion on how this is to work. If someone gets a permit, are they handed the "Do Not Call" list? There is a 72-hour wait period before a permit is issued, and Chief Weaver is supposed to do a background check on the person requesting the permit and then make that decision on whether the permit should be issued. Mr. Stewart has a file on this. He is willing to meet with the staff and the Police Department.

Mayor Wilson would like to review the signage in Lot A, which is the parking lot behind First National Bank. On court days, people are parking in the wrong spots and then get ticketed.

On the ticket exonerations Ben Capozzi was told that he can just pull in and take photos of businesses and would not have to pay to park and received an exoneration. Mark Filletti on North Thomas Street said he talked to Council previously about stalls received an exoneration. Tickets are only issued where parking meters are located.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

#### **HARB**

### **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

1) 121-123 North Allegheny Street: Paint the brick, at 121 North Allegheny, Rustic Red with Colonial Revival Gray for the accent color. The stone building, 123 North Allegheny, use the Hamburg Gray for the accent colors, distinction on the top cornices and the parapet.

2) 121 North Allegheny Street: Approve the signage.

3) 141 South Allegheny Street: The installation of a brick louver on the Bishop Street side of the property at 141 South Allegheny Street as proposed with the

decorative grill, as presented, on the exterior that will be painted to blend in with the brick color.

4) Cadillac Building: 207 South Allegheny Street: Changes requested, by the National Park Service, which are: to include two transom windows above the operable windows, on the second floor, to mirror the original window detail and to move the roof top equipment back two bays so it is not visible from the street.

5) 110 East High Street: Change the outdoor patio, as requested and approved by the County, move the porch in 5'4" to accommodate the entrance of the Courthouse Annex Building; signage: the Garman House and the date carved and engraved in black and set in stone; the MDO signage right and left above the storefront windows; Lighting: gooseneck lighting in black across the front above the stone columns and the rear and along the retaining wall along the adjacent property; and the roof mechanical plan for the four large units as proposed.

6) 141 South Allegheny Street: Administrative approval for replacement transoms.

Troy Knecht addressed Council regarding the two modifications to the Cadillac Building. The modifications were requested by the National Park Service. They recommended there be double transoms across the commercial style windows and the mechanical platform on the rooftop that will hold the HVAC mechanical systems be pushed back further from Bishop Street so it is less likely to be seen. The plan is to have the building permits approved by mid-May and then begin the construction. There were four items for the Garman. The patio modification was in collaboration with a request from the County because of security concerns. The lighting will be shepherd hook style lighting. Rooftop mechanicals did not make the initial HARB meeting. They will only be visible from the very top of High Street or the very top of Allegheny Street.

Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve all the Certificates of Appropriateness. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- HARB draft meeting minutes from the April 15, 2015 meeting are in the packet for review.

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY** - No report.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** - The correct Current vs. Prior report was given to each Council member. The one in the packet was incorrect.

The Update Code Expense for General Government in the amount of \$2,000.00 is for the General Code, the E360, that has the Borough Code online. A maintenance fee is required every six months.

**PARK AND RECREATION** - Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the use of Governor's Park Baseball Field by the Bellefonte Braves and the Pleasant Gap Heifers baseball teams. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the concept of relocating the Freight Building from its current location to the proposed location in Talleyrand Park as presented earlier this evening per BHCA's request. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne reported the edible garden is beginning to grow. The signage is back and some perennials are coming up. The food is being harvested and taken to the food bank.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** - There was a committee meeting, and there will be first-round interviews for the mechanic position within the next week. There was discussion on a seasonal position for streets and a part-time position for refuse.

There was an Executive Session for a legal matter.

**SAFETY** - No report.

**WATER AND SANITATION** - The draft Authority minutes from the April 7, 2015, meeting are in the packet for review.

**STREETS** - Mr. DeCusati will review the signage as requested by Mayor Wilson.

Mr. DeCusati encouraged residents to rake their stones into a line and not a pile and the street sweeper will collect it in the near future.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** - Mrs. Dunne reported on the last Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting that was held April 15. It featured a presentation by the MS4 Partners. MS4 Partners is a group composed of the individual municipal engineers of the Centre Region and Penn State. MS4 stands for Multiple Separate Storm Sewer Systems. An MS4 permit is required by the DEP for certain urbanized areas. This group received their first permit in 2003 and the renewal period was 2014. In that time the requirements changed somewhat. They shared their experiences about meeting the permit requirements. There are six areas in which they are required to create a Stormwater Management Program and implement their program and provide documentation. The six areas are: Public Education and Outreach; Public Involvement; Illicit Discharges; Construction Site Run-Off; Post Construction Stormwater Management; and Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping. They shared their experiences and that was very useful. The program can be seen on the [MS4partners.org](http://MS4partners.org) website.

**JUNIOR COUNCIL** - No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Spicer made a motion to approve the Petition and Resolution #04202015-02 authorizing the submission of a petition to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board for a hearing to consider an exemption from the statute regarding amplified music being heard off the premises of the licenses establishments. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Borough yard sale dates are May 15 and 16. Riff-raff is the week of May 18 - 22.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 2015 CDBG 1st Public Hearing on April 9 and Updates to Program - Mr. Holderman reported this is the first year, 2015, that the Borough is working in conjunction with Centre County Planning Office regarding the CDBG program. There was a conference held in April and the 2015 application is due in September. It is anticipated that the 2014 contract will be received in June.

- The Centre Region Code Reports re Permits Issued in January 2015 and Permits Closed were provided to Council members.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to appoint Brian Walker to the Fire Protection Task Force. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Holderman thanked approximately twenty Penn State Students who came on April 11 and did a walkthrough of Union Cemetery to completely get it prepared for spring.

- Jane Li asked Mr. Holderman to mention that Bellefonte High School is presenting Beauty and the Beast this Thursday, April 23, through Saturday, April 25, at the Bellefonte High School.

- There is a list of upcoming PSAB webinars at the table for Council members to review. Please email Mrs. Stanton if you plan to attend one.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Brachbill made a motion to adjourn the meeting of April 20, 2015, at 8:55 p.m. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.