

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
February 1, 2016
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CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order by Council President Gay Dunne 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: Beigle, Brachbill, DeCusati, Dunne, Harvey, Tosti-Vasey

Members Excused: Brown, Johnson; Spicer

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

Staff Present: Vana Dainty

Guests: Courtney Dickman; Eric Sauder; Nancy Perkins; Jeanne T. Newlin;
Emma Gosalvez, Lock Haven Express; Mike Prendergast;
Jennifer Cifelli;

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

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 January 18, 2016, Meeting Minutes

- Finance – McQuaide Blasko Invoice
- Finance – Treasurer’s Report
- Finance – December 2015 Voucher Summary: \$963,310.44

Mr. Johnson requested the minutes be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the remaining three items in the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mr. Johnson requested a correction to the minutes via Mrs. Dunne as follows: Page 3, under oral comments, the correct spelling is Marianne Hazel, CPI. Mr. Brachbill commented that there was more conversation regarding Dunlop Street than what was noted in the minutes. He would like entire minutes rather than a quick sentence. Council members would like more detailed minutes.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNICATIONS

WRITTEN

- A letter from Jennifer Cifelli informing that Centre County Library’s Historical Museum is hosting the 2016 Centre County Reads kick-off event. On Saturday, February 20, at 3:30 p.m. re-enactors from the 148th Company C Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry will be hosting a mock female spy trial in the Library’s Community Garden behind the museum. Weather permitting they will have tents in the back garden and provide firing demonstrations, with blanks. She is requesting permission to build a small “friendship” fire in an outdoor fireplace in the garden and to be sure it is acceptable for the 148th to present a short firing demonstration near the end of their presentation.

Ms. Cifelli, Communications Director at Centre County Library, provided an overview of the event.

Mr. Stewart stated recreational fires are permitted if they are in a containerized system.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the event as described. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. Ms. Tosti-Vasey asked what kind of casings will be used in the weapons firing. Ms. Cifelli does not know, but she does know they do these demonstrations frequently and they maintain a safe distance from the public. She feels most of the demonstration will be centered around staging a mock spy trial. She will contact a representative from the 148th for more information if that is what Council would like. Mr. DeCusati feels these re-enactments are typically done in larger areas and in the library garden there is not a lot of room. He questions where the people will be to observe this. Mayor Wilson asked what the safety concern is with them firing blanks. He said the re-enactors know what they are doing because they do it all the time. Mrs. Dunne noted the motion approves the event as described without the knowledge of any

additional safety issues. A hand vote was called. Three voted yes; three voted no; Mayor Wilson voted yes to break the tie. The motion passed.

- A letter from Gary V. Hoover, Executive Director, Bellefonte Intervalley Area Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to use the Expanded Area (Greens Area) of Talleyrand Park to hold the Bellefonte Intervalley Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Croquet Tournament and for the Borough to waive the fees for use of the park for that activity. The day of requested use is June 5, 2016. The tournament will run from approximately 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Additional time will be needed before the tournament to set up and additional time will be needed at the end of the tournament for teardown. The application fee of \$20.00 has been included.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. The motion passed.

- A letter from James C. Steff, Executive Director, Centre Region COG thanking the Bellefonte Borough Council members for graciously providing temporary storage space of the Centre Region Code Administration's fire safety trailer during the 2015/2016 winter season.

- A letter from Tina Wendt, Office Manager, Saint John Catholic School, 116 East Bishop Street, Bellefonte, requesting permission to reserve the basketball, baseball and soccer fields as well as the walking path for their Field Day activities on Wednesday, May 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the request pending a review of the other bookings to be sure there is no conflict of field schedules. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Mrs. Dunne noted someone would need to call Ms. Wendt and inform her of how much the fee is. A voice vote was unanimous.

- An email from Mary Beth Rader Allegar, Penn State Extension, inviting Council to the Penn State Extension Association of Centre County breakfast and brief informational program, A Winning Partnership: Maximizing Extension in Your Community, at Celebration Hall, 2280 Commercial Boulevard, State College on Wednesday, March 30. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and the informational program begins at 8:15 a.m. This event highlights Extension's various programs that are available to constituents in Centre County. The cost of the event is \$15.00 and the registration deadline is Wednesday, March 23. Register by calling the extension office at (814) 355-4897.

- A statement from the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) related to the lead contamination issue in Flint, Michigan. It is about community water systems in general.

- Mr. Stewart will be attending, with the PA Rural Water Association, a trip to Washington, D.C., to help with the National Rural Water Association's efforts to discuss regulations, funding, and training for small water and wastewater systems. The trip will be Monday, February 8, through Wednesday, February 10. He will be taking Tom Long,

Certified System Operations Specialist at Bellefonte's waste water treatment plant. Tom has the most years of service of any certified operator and can speak first-hand about the regulations, operational issues, and training needs. All expenses for the trip are covered by the PA Rural Water Association.

- A letter from Patrick A. McCool, Chairperson, 2016 Historic Bellefonte Cruise requesting street closings for the 28th annual Historic Bellefonte Cruise and Car & Motorcycle Show to be held June 17 and 18, 2016. The Friday, June 17, requests include: closure of High Street from Allegheny Street to Spring Street from 5:00 p.m. to midnight; and the closure of Allegheny Street between Bishop and Howard streets from 7:30 p.m. to midnight. The Saturday, June 18, requests include: the closure of Allegheny Street from Linn Street to Bishop Street, West High Street from Allegheny Street, including the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of West High Street, and West Howard Street for the car show from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; the closure of Allegheny Street from Howard Street to Bishop Street; and East High Street from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. They are also requesting the use of the Municipal Parking lot located on Howard Street for use as a food court. A request for the use of several metered parking spaces along Spring Street near the Presbyterian Church to be used for handicapped parking. A request for an ordinance or declaration that would prohibit pets, bikes and skateboards from said area for the sock-hop, cruise, and car show time. A request for Fire Police to man the intersections of Spring and High Streets from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on June 17 and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on June 18. A request for the street parking along Talleyrand Park side the morning of Sunday, June 19 for the annual Bellefonte Eagle Riders Make-A-Wish motorcycle ride.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the requests. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Mr. Stewart noted the ordinance request is in their request every year. They would like signage installed so the ordinance could be enforced. Mr. Stewart will contact the Chairman of the event to clarify who would be providing signage and other issues. Sergeant Brower said typically the dog issue has always been about damage to the cars. The skateboards would be an issue with damage. He is not aware of damage with the skateboards. It is more of an issue with dogs. In the past the Cruise Committee has handled it "in-house" and asked the people not to have their dogs there. Mr. Brachbill made an amendment to the motion to change the sentence "we would greatly appreciate if the Borough could enact an ordinance to "We would greatly appreciate if the Borough declare the cruise area (above mentioned area) a parking area prohibiting pets, bikes and skateboards from said area for the sock hop, cruise, and car show time." Mr. Beigle seconded the amendment. A voice vote was unanimous.

ORAL

- Mrs. Dunne reported that she, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Holderman, and Mr. Johnson toured CPI. They were led through the facility by Dr. Marianne Hazel and Mr. Todd Taylor, head of Adult Education. The tour was extremely informative. They were seeking ways in which the Borough could collaborate with CPI and CPI could collaborate with the Borough. She thanked CPI for the good experience.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ms. Harvey gave a report on the Spring Creek Watershed Commission, which is a body made up of representatives from various municipalities in the watershed, including Bellefonte Borough. Mrs. Dunne and Ms. Harvey have been sharing representation on it. They had their first meeting of the new year on January 20. The charge of the commission is basically to protect and enhance the watershed. To that aim they are trying to develop a conflict incident management plan and are also in the process of initiating what will become a watershed atlas. Clearwater Conservancy and the Spring Creek Watershed Association work together with the Spring Creek Watershed Commission to try to enhance the watershed.

The annual watershed cleanup day will be April 23. An enormous amount of junk is typically collected that day.

MAYOR'S REPORT

- Mayor Wilson reported Sergeant Brower is in the audience to answer any questions. Mayor Wilson commended the police department. In a couple of recent burglaries it took three days to catch four of the perpetrators. There were a total of seven arrests, but they were not all Borough residents. For the first burglary, it took three days to catch the people. There was an attempted break-in and that person was caught the next day. Sergeant Brower said there are some other cases pending and some arrests pending.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

ZONING/PLANNING

- Memo from Ms. Dainty regarding Centre Crest Lot Consolidation – The Planning Commission is recommending instead of changing the zoning that Centre Crest Inc. go to the Zoning Hearing Board and apply for a variance for their request.

- Memo from Ms. Dainty regarding the Zoning Hearing Board Vacancy. The Bellefonte Zoning Hearing Board recommends Mark Edwards be appointed to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve Mark Edwards to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. There are five members on the board. Ordinances are reviewed at each Zoning Hearing Board. An attorney attends the meeting. Ms. Dainty represents the Borough. There is periodic workshop training available for the members. The terms are five-year terms. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Holderman will verify the term for this position. Mrs. Dunne, in reading the Pennsylvania Municipality Act applicable to the Zoning Hearing Board, got the impression that a resolution was required for the appointment of a member. Mr. Beigle said the new Borough's magazine says that but you can put alternates on.

Mr. Holderman said that is in reference to the Planning Commission. If a resolution is required, it will be handled at the next Council meeting. A voice vote was unanimous.

- The Freight Building will possibly be moved in early March.

- Draft Planning Commission minutes from January 26, 2016, are in the packet for review.

HARB

- None.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

- None.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Mr. Stewart would like Mr. DeCusati to have his committee look at the municipal parking lot adjacent to the First National Bank. There is a small sinkhole where it looks like surface water run-off from the parking lot created a small opening. It appears that a remedy would be a drain out to West Howard Street and then run down to the intersection of Allegheny and Howard Street and connect in to that storm system.

FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE – Ms. Tosti-Vasey had a question regarding the General Fund, Budget v Actual on Revenue 357.030 County Liquid Fuels Tax Grant. It was budgeted that the Borough would be receiving \$15,000.00 in 2015 and nothing was received and she wants to know why. Mr. Stewart reported the application was made in 2015 and it is a reimbursement grant, and the project has not been completed yet. It will be completed in 2016, and the money will be received then. Mr. Holderman reported the project will cost approximately \$25,000.00. When the project is finished, the county will provide \$15,000.00 of reimbursements. It is part of the emergency light at the Undine Fire Company.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported one of the things she learned this weekend at training was that Liquid Fuels Tax Grant is based partially on population and the square footage of streets in town. Mr. Stewart stated it is not based on population but eligible road miles within the municipality. There is a formula, and a road has to qualify on width. There are a lot of lanes in the Borough that do not qualify. Ms. Tosti-Vasey asked if the decision made a few weeks ago to shut down Dunlop Street would affect the funds or is it a road that is not part of it. Mr. Stewart will verify it but he feels it is probably too narrow to be an eligible street.

Mr. Brachbill said there will probably be money spent on that street, and if so, where does that money come from. Mr. Stewart stated originally in the budget it was planned to use the grant money, the ARCAP Funding, and then the local loan to match

the funding will pay to rebuild the streets. It is all part of the improvement project. The road has to be raised no matter what.

Mr. Brachbill requested a meeting with Ms. Walker because of the new members on Council.

PARK AND RECREATION – Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported she and Mrs. Brown had their first meeting on January 25. They asked Mr. Stewart to review the ordinances related to the park to be sure they are all consistent and see if any need updated. They are going to be working with the Talleyrand Park Committee on some of the plans they are working on such as the butterfly garden and the fountain that will be put in the sculpture park. They also discussed watching and monitoring the walkway bridge construction that will be happening in Talleyrand Park. They understand that the railroad bridge that goes across the stream will have a cantilevered walkway on the left side. That will be constructed by the railroad. CDBG funding will be used for this. This was approved several years ago. The railroad engineer will do the design of the bridge.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey went to Governor's Park to look at the new playground equipment. There was concern raised that it might be unsafe. What was determined is what is there was designed to be put in mulch to be really safe. It cannot be determined whether it is safe or not until Spring when that part of the construction is done. The playground equipment has police tape completely surrounding it to prevent use. The park is closed for the season.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported there are three people on this committee. They met last week and there has been an offer made to a Public Works employee to become the lab technician and he accepted. Mr. Holderman reported internally today a vacancy announcement was posted for a maintenance position, which is the position where the lab technician came from. It was requested that the position postings be accurate.

SAFETY –The Fire Protection Task Force draft minutes will be in the next Council packet.

Mr. Brachbill was selected to be the new Chairperson for the Fire Prevention Task Force. The Task Force is looking for additional Council member representatives. This will be determined at the Council meeting of February 15, 2016. Mr. Brachbill reported the meetings are held the 4th Thursday of every other month. The next meeting will be March 24. The meetings run from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

WATER/SANITATION – There will be an Authority meeting on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

STREETS – No report.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Tosti-Vasey made a motion to approve the following appointments to the CCMPO:

Coordinating Committee Rep – Dave Wise
Coordinating Committee Alternate – Paul DeCusati
Technical Rep – Bill MacMath

Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. Mr. DeCusati abstained from voting.

Consider Approval of 2015 Report - Bellefonte Police Department Assessment – Mrs. Dunne added a memo to express how she feels about this assessment. Mrs. Dunne feels that this represents the AD HOC Committee’s due diligence report to learn more about the police department, how it functions, staffing and budgetary ramifications. There was a budgetary emphasis to this, which was acknowledged. She stands up for the selection of Clearfield and Hollidaysburg as comparable communities, even though that has been debated a little bit in the past. They were contacted and information was received but they will not be used again as model police departments, but simply as reference points. These recommendations that fall within the report are meant to be, for the most part, future considerations. It is not suggested that they all be implemented in this calendar year, but some of them probably should be considered. Mrs. Dunne feels there are enough agreement between the AD HOC Committees’ recommendations and those that the police department came out with to give this report credibility and a little life. She is recommending approval of the report at this time. The second thing is that this could be used—we won’t tie approval of this report to developing a long-range plan for the police department—but it could logically be used to go in that direction. She suggested it be looked at a little bit more broadly to identify the community services that are needed, identifying staffing that is required. It could be most efficiently used to meet those community services. Perhaps the physical organization of the department, technology coming up in the future—what do we want to buy in on, and the physical impact? She is thinking about this as maybe a ten-year, long-range plan for our police department, in which case there are more considerations. She also suggests that a consultant could be employed at that time and help with the long-range plan.

Mr. Beigle recommends approval of this report but why does it have to be approved? Why can it not just be a document to be used? He feels when you approve the document you are approving everything that is in it. He does not think that is a good thing to do because too many things have changed. Mrs. Dunne does not agree that the approval means all of that. She is asking Council to recognize that this is reasonable work to date. Mr. Halderman appointed half of the committee members, and they were charged with creating a report, which they have done. She feels there needs to be some acknowledgement on part of Council that this was acceptable so far.

Mr. DeCusati asked if she would consider if Council were to adopt the report. Mr. Brachbill, being involved on that committee, said there was a lot of discussion about the goals and future planning, and there was agreement to it but there was not any specific ideas brought up. There were generalities brought up.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to accept the report and that it be a working document and continue that way. Mr. Beigle asked if there would be a task force assigned to continue to look at this. Mayor Wilson said there are some basic agreements in this report that the Chief and Sergeants have acknowledged they are going to be cognizant of. They are going to meet on a quarterly basis to review the budget. They are reviewing some of the methods for overtime, which they have done a good job of reducing already. There is some agreement between the police and the committee on what can be done. They are also looking at doing some work with Spring Township for coverage. He agrees that approval may be strong but just acknowledging that the report exists and is an ongoing work would be the way to go with that.

Mrs. Dunne's suggestion about the long-range plan does not have to be incorporated into the motion. It is not a detailed proposal. Mr. Brachbill said the information is there to review. It is more than just one page.

Mr. Brachbill made a motion to accept the report of the AD HOC Committee of the Police Department Assessment as a working document. Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne does not know how to move forward with long-range planning. She suggested that they could reconstitute a task force similar to the one before and bring in the police department again and think about a consultant. A consultant would be valuable for

long-range stuff. Mr. Brachbill suggested a committee be formed and then they need to develop what guidelines or topics they want to discuss.

Mayor Wilson suggested due to the time that an AD HOC Committee be appointed at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

- PSAB Annual Certification Form – Mr. Stewart reported if we are going to have the County Borough Association there is a board member process. Mr. Stewart is willing to reach out to Millheim Borough and some of the other Boroughs to see if there is interest in getting this going. If Council wants to continue being part of the Clearfield Borough's Association there would be a vacant seat that would need to be filled.

Ms. Tosti-Vasey asked what the PSAB requirements are for a Board for a county level. Mr. Stewart will get answers from the Borough's Association. A Borough has to be a member of the Borough's Association to be part.

- Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported there is a documentary that just came out called "Fix It, Healthcare at the Tipping Point". It discusses the rising cost of healthcare for individuals, Boroughs, Municipalities, County Governments, State Governments and Schools. There is a bill in the state legislature, HB1668, which is an attempt to address that. She talked to Dave Stile, the immediate past-president of Healthcare for all of PA. He is a former Borough Council member, a former Republican state legislator and a

businessman. He said he would be willing to call in to a work session for Council to review the shorter version of the documentary and then he would answer any questions about the bills in the state legislature and then if Council would want to they could create a resolution to go to PSAB, but that needs to be at PSAB before April 1. A decision needs to be made whether that work session is done on February 15 or March 2. The shorter version is 35 minutes and the Q&A would be another 20 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Beigle made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting of February 1, 2016, at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.