

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
September 5, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

5:45 p.m. Water-Sanitation Committee Meeting

6:15 p.m. Executive Session – Real Estate

6:30 p.m. Work Session –

- **Spring Creek Watershed Commission – Lexi Orr, Dennis Hameister**
- **Police Department Staffing/Budget Discussions**

CALL TO ORDER:

The September 5, 2017, regular meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mr. Brachbill.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Randall Brachbill
Melissa Hombosky
Doug Johnson
Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Taylor Lake
Joseph Beigle
Courtney Dickman
Gay Dunne (via conference call)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Renee Brown

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager
Don Holderman, Assistant Borough Manager
Tom Wilson, Mayor

GUESTS: Emma Gonsalvez, The Express
Fred Henry P.L.S.
Matt Rupert
Walt Schneider, Fire Director

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

**Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2017, Council Meeting, as amended;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried via voice vote.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

(The following items listed on the Consent Agenda are considered 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).

Nothing presented.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

Written:

Letter requests from Spring Creek Watershed Commission – One for Council/One for Authority

Mr. Stewart explained the two letters regarded interest in increasing some financial assistance to the Commission. The contribution would be out of the general fund.

**Ms. Dunne moved to approve the municipality increase in contribution for 2018 to \$619.00;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

PSAB Update

Ms. Dunne offered that there was a grant application open from the office of the State Fire Commissioner with an October 20, 2017, deadline. She wondered if that would be a source that could be applicable to anything we are thinking of. Mr. Stewart indicated the Fire Chief was in the audience and he was shaking his head “no.”

Letter re: Electric Vehicle Event

Event to be held on Sunday, September 17, 2017, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Country Inn and Suites, State College. Ms. Tosti-Vasey added that the public is invited to this event. The Bellefonte Borough with several other entities from the state and federal levels as well as Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, car manufacturers, and environmental organizations formed a coalition to provide encouragement to purchase and use electric vehicles for individual use and municipality use. There is an event called National Drive Electric Week, which started about a year or two ago. Heather Shadow is organizing the local event and she indicated that it would be helpful for anyone interested to go to driveelectricweek.org and sign up. The event is free of charge.

Letter Request re: Give Em 5! Veterans Run

October 29, 2017 at 1 p.m. Give Em' 5! Veterans Run which will begin at the middle school. This has been a recurring event in the Borough. Mr. Stewart wanted to remind the applicant that no marking on the street is allowed.

**Mr. Beigle moved to approve the Veterans Run on October 29, 2017;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

PSAB Training Opportunities List

Letter from Resident of East Curtin Street

This is regarding consideration of a one way pattern on Curtin and Linn. The resident opposes that idea.

ORAL COMMENT:

Annual Fire Department Report – Walt Schneider, Fire Chief

Mr. Schneider presented the annual report for the Fire Department. He gave a brief background of the fire departments in Bellefonte. The Logan and Undine Fire Companies are the companies that exist in the Borough. The grant that Ms. Dunne spoke of will be pursued by the individual fire companies themselves for corporate use. They have been successful in the past.

Mr. Schneider gave a description of the vehicles that are operable in each company; the oldest dates back to 1981, the newest is a 2014 truck. The apparatus is insured for in-kind capacity replacement.

The Department reports to about 400 calls a year and offered a breakdown of the calls and discussed the mutual reciprocity with neighboring municipalities, from which the Department obtains funding.

Currently on the books there are 85 members. Some of the 85 are not 100% active on calls. It would probably be about 20 people out of 85 that are actually running the big calls. All members get a physical every other year. That is taken care of through the Department. That is being done to make sure that our firefighters are healthy and a baseline history is kept. Mr. Schneider gave a brief summary of the certifications. National certifications also enable the companies to receive grants from the Fire Commissioner's office. Both companies got approximately \$14,000 each in grants last year. This can be used for operational use, debt reduction, etc. He also explained that a portion of insurance funds are distributed to the Pennsylvania Fireman's Relief Fund and are divided to municipalities based on a formula; property and population. Annually the total of these funds are usually in the high \$60,000 and vary from year to year. Only certain things can be purchased with this money, and this is dictated by the Auditor General.

The budget that the fire department uses annually in 2017 is \$176,857.00. As of this morning \$83,166 was spent. During this third quarter, however, extensive equipment testing takes place, and the budget will be spent down because of this.

Ms. Lake inquired whether the departments ever had to deal with hazmat. Mr. Schneider detailed the Kepler pool incident which occurred in July. The large containment tank for the chlorine ruptured and leaked into secondary containment. It appears to be buckling. PSU Hazmat responded. Fortunately, the secondary containment did not fail.

Council thanked Mr. Schneider for presenting the report.

Public Comment

129-131 W. High Street Chimney

Matt Rupert spoke to Council regarding the chimney work at 129-131 W. High Street. He attended a HARB meeting two weeks prior regarding chimney removal. The chimney is coming apart and has not been used in years. It is leaning. He fears that it may blow over in a good wind. The chimney also presents a fire hazard. Council thanked Mr. Rupert for the project explanation.

Opioid Overdose Victims Vigil

Ms. Tosti-Vasey reported that on Sunday, September 3, 2017 at the Courthouse Annex 3rd floor meeting room, a vigil presentation was held. The Commissioners presented a County resolution raising support and awareness for families and victims of opioid overdose. Three family members shared their personal stories of addiction and loss. She offered that it was a very powerful evening. Hope Centre County is the organization that sponsored this event. There were about 50 people in attendance.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Tentative – Fire Task Force Meeting 6 p.m. Thursday, September 28, 2017. Mr. Brachbill is unable to attend due to a prior commitment. There is nothing on the agenda, so the meeting may be postponed anyway.

Fire Executive Committee Meeting 7 p.m. Thursday, September 28, 2017 – Mr. Brachbill will also be absent from this meeting and asked that any safety committee members who can perhaps fill in for him, to let him know as soon as possible.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Wilson indicated that he received a few complaints about people trying to cross at crosswalks and the law for yielding to pedestrians. He wanted to remind the residents if you see someone in the crosswalks, please remember that it is the law to yield to pedestrians.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

ZONING/PLANNING:

Planning Commission meeting minutes August 28, 2017 DRAFT

Planning Commission recommended approval of the Lot Addition to Lands of Dennis R. and Kay F. Meleshenko from Lands of Jeff E. and Rebecca A. Holter

**Mr. Beigle moved to approve the Lot Addition to Lands of Dennis R. and Kay F. Meleshenko from Lands of Jeff E. and Rebecca A. Holter;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

HARB:

**Certificates of Appropriateness: 217 N. Allegheny Street; 121 N. Allegheny St.,
131 W. High St.**

Mr. Stewart summarized each project.

**Ms. Tosti-Vasey moved to approve the projects as presented;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Mr. Stewart discussed a HARB item not on the agenda which was a HARB denial recommendation for a metal roof project at 301 North Spring Street.

**Mr. Beigle moved to approve the recommendation of denial from HARB:
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

HARB Meeting Minutes August 22, 2017 DRAFT

The HARB/Council work session will be on September 18, 2017. Ms. Dunne requested Ms. Wright to make a listing of topics to be discussed as listed in the minutes. She would like to use this as a structure for the work session. Mr. Stewart concurred.

BUILDING AND PROPERTY: Courtney Dickman, Chair

Fulton Bank Resolution – 218 Peterbilt 348

Ms. Dickman discussed the Resolution No. 09022017-003 regarding the Lease of the dump truck.

**Ms. Lake moved to accept the Resolution No. 09052017-003;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

The funds for the down payment are in the 2017 budget and for 2018 the annual payment will be budgeted.

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE: Renee Brown, Chair

Waterfront Development grant (RCAP) audit completed with no findings –

Mr. Stewart reported on the audit that was done (\$3 million grant). He was happy to report that there were no findings in the audit. Mr. Holderman, assistant borough manager did a great job of keeping track of the paper work and complying with all the regulations. Mr. Stewart also recognized Ms. Lori Walker as well. Council thanked both of them for their work on the grant project.

Finance Committee report from August 27 meeting re: police budget –

Mr. Brachbill reported that everything was in order. Mr. Johnson concurred.

PARK AND RECREATION: Melissa Hombosky, Chair

Krauss Park clean up still needs to be scheduled.

Mr. Holderman indicated that a meeting will need to be scheduled on two projects at Talleyrand Park.

USDA will be sampling some ducks this Thursday.

HUMAN RESOURCES: Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Chair

Lydia Munnell, the current part-time receptionist will be leaving the end of October. A job posting will be posted soon for her position.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: Randy Brachbill, Chair

September is National Preparedness Month.

Mr. Brachbill reported about the National Preparedness Month. Information is in the packets. He would like information listed on the website for the public to view. Items include making a plan for yourself and your families, helping neighbors and community, practice plans and being involved.

WATER AND SANITATION: Joe Beigle, Chair

Daily Water Withdrawal Report – August 2017

Regarding the landfill tree trimming/brush dumping by contractors, Mr. Beigle indicated that this was talked about and some ideas were tossed around and something will be brought back to Council once it is narrowed down.

STREETS: Doug Johnson, Chair

Potential stormwater project – Engineer report expected the week of September 4, 2017.

Howard and Wilson Street four-way stop sign – Study is being done and gathering traffic counts.

West Linn Street – Route 144 – Project ending delayed until end of October.

North Allegheny Street – Molasses Hill will remain closed due to work on the bridge at Log Cabin Motors. Expected to end late November.

Corner of Lamb and Water Street - The traffic lights were discussed (new ones) regarding pulling the line back. PennDOT may need to put a 'No Right Turn' sign at the light. There is a blind spot to the left. This is a dangerous issue. The stop bar seems to be too far up.

Suggestion by Ms. Tosti-Vasey regarding caps or lights on the new traffic light poles be budgeted for the next three years. Mr. Stewart can get in touch with the vendor.

Columbia Gas Work – Thomas Street – this will be worked out by Columbia Gas. They will post no parking as the project proceeds. The Borough does not need to do anything on their end. The Borough is, however, providing the mobile barricades.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: Taylor Lake, Chair

Ms. Lake is asking for feedback on the Solar Panel Ordinance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Police Department Staffing/Budget – consider going through standard budget process –

Council consented to following the budget as laid out, replacing any vacancies in-kind. This was done at the last meeting. No action was needed.

HB 1620 taking Away Municipal Control of Right-of-Ways - letters have been sent to Rep. Benninghoff and Senator Corman -

Legislation gives power over our right of ways to modular antenna companies for better cell service. The Borough opposes this and wishes to maintain control over regulation of these antennas and poles.

Zoning Webinar – sustainability/solar ordinance update

Copy of State College Borough Wireless Cell Monopole Ordinance –

In packet for consideration to remand the issue to Planning Commission. Because this is an ordinance change, Planning Commission would need to review the ordinance and make recommendations. Mr. Stewart indicated that the Planning Commission's comments can be reviewed and Council can review both comments and the draft ordinance. Ms. Tosti-Vasey also recommended the building and property committee look at the ordinance as well. Variances should be examined as well during this review period.

A joint meeting between the Building and Property Committee and Planning Commission was proposed.

Junior Borough Council Rep –

Mr. Beigle inquired how the Borough would obtain a member. Ms. Hombosky indicated that the school district is aware and is looking for staff to organize it at the school level. If staff is not interested, there is no option to go forward.

New Website -

Mr. Holderman indicated that the new website is pretty close but he believes that there should probably be a meeting soon to get the site turned over. Comments about the current website and its problems are still coming in. The sooner the new site is turned over, the better.

Mr. Holderman would like the website group to get together to take one final look and perhaps come back to the next Council meeting with a recommendation day for turnover.

NEW BUSINESS:

Fair Housing Resolution – 09052017-001

Mr. Holderman indicated that this is the same one passed each year.

**Mr. Beigle moved to pass the Resolution 09052017-001;
Ms. Dickman seconded the motion;**

Discussion was held on the language of the resolution. Ms. Tosti-Vasey had concerns with age and issue with service animals. She spoke with Linda Marshall, County Housing Coordinator and the PHRC. The language in the resolution is outdated. Ms. Marshall recommended passing as is and she will work to get the DCED to correct the language. Additionally, the support animal's clause was changed in 2013 by HUD. As it is written it is very limiting. Because of the timeliness of getting this in, Ms. Marshall suggested passing as written, knowing that the language will need to be updated.

Motion carried.

Grant Application Keystone Community Program –

There is a grant deadline of September 15, 2017. Looking at applying these funds to the potential project at the Gamble Mill. There is a lot of interest for getting these funds set up for that project. Mr. Stewart asked that Council approve the resolution at the table which will go with the grant application.

**Mr. Beigle moved to approve the resolution (09022017-002) for the
Keystone Community Program Grant Application;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Resolution for Facade Grant –

Mr. Stewart indicated that the Borough has applied twice in the past. This is funding for smaller construction projects in the historical district. This resolution will be sent in with the grant application.

Mr. Beigle moved to approve the resolution (09052017-004) for the Facade Grant;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

Mr. Holderman briefly discussed the DCED for 2016. At the last meeting, Council voted to appeal the project so that the sprinkler system can be maintained. Matt Millan at the County received a letter back from DCED. The letter which was in the last packet, indicated that the Borough does need to comply with the requirement and change the 2016 project to an eligible and fundable project. Mr. Holderman is recommending a motion that the 2016 funds be put into the Talleyrand Project that is being worked. That would allow Mr. Millan to use the same template that he has already applied by modifying the 2015 funds. He can use the same template and get the other modification taken care of. That will put the Borough and the County in compliance with the DCED. As the appeal process continues, and if the Borough is successful, another modification is done to put it back.

Ms. Tosti Vasey moved to place the 2016 DCED grant funds into the Talleyrand Project, as described by Mr. Holderman;
Mr. Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

Ms. Dunne discussed the Spring Creek Watershed Commission request for funding from the beginning of the meeting. The Commission has worked with the Watershed in the past and she thinks that this is a good cause and maybe the only ground that does good planning for the watershed for the future. Mr. Beigle indicated that the money should not come from the Authority but from money set aside from the bulk water fund, and will not have to come out of the budget.

Ms. Dunne moved that Council encourage the Authority to make it a token contribution to the Spring Creek Watershed effort;
Mr. Beigle seconded the motion;

Mr. Beigle moved to amend the motion in that the funding will come from the “bulk water fund” in the amount of \$1,000;
Ms. Tosti-Vasey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

**Ms. Hombosky moved to adjourn the September 5, 2017, Bellefonte
Borough Council meeting;
Mr. Johnson seconded;
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.