

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 2, 2015**  
**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: Beigle, Brachbill, Brown, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Walker,

Members Excused: Spicer,

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Joanne Tosti-Vasey; Sam McGinley, HARB; Zach Gay; Rod Beard;  
R. Timothy Smith;

**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 October 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **WRITTEN**

- A letter from Bonnie R. Millmore, Executive Director, Center for Alternatives in Community Justice requesting funding for their Youth Aid Panel (YAP) Program.

- A letter from Jerry S. Walls, FAICP, Chairman, SEDA-COG Railroads, in response to a letter received previously from the Reading & Northern (R&N) Railroad.

- An email from Joleen Hindman, Area Manager, FirstEnergy Corp. informing that they will be doing tree trimming in the Bellefonte Area. West Penn Power will be sending out post cards notifying the customers that they will be performing tree trimming & removal, brush clearing and herbicide application as needed along electric line rights-of-way. Any inquiries should be directed to their call center at 1-800-686-0021.

- A letter from Eleanor Hutsky, 341 East Linn Street, supporting the Authority's decision to discontinue fluoride.

- A letter and other information from Jackie Douty, 372 East High Street, encouraging the decision to eliminate fluoride from the Bellefonte water system.

- A letter from Sally R. Houser, Event Co-Chair, Bellefonte Victorian Christmas, thanking the Borough, Council, Staff and Employees for their continued support before and during the Victorian Christmas weekend. They are requesting support for the 2015 Victorian Christmas to be held December 11, 12 & 13.

The request is to have meters bagged on the corner of West High & North Allegheny December 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> to provide parking for the committee members to load and unload for the event. Two food vendors will be placed outside of the YMCA along the alleyway where Northwest Bank's drive-thru was located and they will need an electrical source. They would like fire police Saturday and Sunday to direct traffic for the Carriage Rides for the weekend. Also fire police to assist with parking at the Middle School & High School. They need a police officer to direct traffic during the moving of the Santa House, which is scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> between 3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Decorating Day will be Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 7:00 a.m. with breakfast at the Moose and decorating beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the Diamond. They will need volunteers and 10' ladders. They also would like a request for help listed on the Borough website.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the requests as listed. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- An invitation from Derck & Edson in regard to Downtown Bellefonte – Character and Vision at the Centre County Library’s Historical Museum. People are invited to drop in between 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at the Centre County Library Historical Museum. Attendees will be invited to participate in two (2) activities. It will take approximately 35-40 minutes. They would like input on how people would like to visually see Bellefonte in ten years. This is free to the Borough.

- Council members are invited to attend the Veteran’s Day Program followed by the Hometown Heroes Streetlight Banner Program, which will begin this year. The banners will be placed on all the downtown streetlights. The invitation is for anybody in the community wishing to attend Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. at the Centre County Courthouse lawn. The program will last approximately 45-50 minutes.

Mrs. Brown made a motion to have C-NET provide coverage for that event if possible. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **ORAL**

- Robert Smith, 113 Kathryn Drive, thanked Council for agreeing to hold the Public Meeting to discuss the fluoridation issue. He feels Council is headed in the direction to urge the Authority to reconsider their decision and possibly continue the fluoridation in the water. He thanked Council for their consideration.

- Joanne Tosti-Vasey, 429 North Spring Street, mentioned when she was walking around town today she talked to one of the residents. PennDOT has been installing new ADA accessible corners and sidewalks and the sidewalk color does not match anything else. Mr. Stewart stated PennDOT has been notified. The only thing they can do with the sidewalks that have been already poured is to apply a topcoat. Future cement will have the color additive in it.

PennDOT said they weren’t aware of the cement color requirement. Matt has said that they were made aware of it. There are approximately three or four done without the color additive. Council feels if the topcoat peels off it should be PennDOT’s responsibility to repair it.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Fire Protection Task Force draft meeting minutes from October 22, 2015 are in the packet for review.

Mrs. Dunne reported Karen Harvey, Mr. Halderman, a representative from Walker Township and Mrs. Dunne visited Senator Corman and Representative Benninghoff regarding proposed legislation, which is now House Bill 1376, which is an opportunity for a municipality to offer financial incentives to volunteer firemen in the form of earned income tax credits. They were urging their support and will continue to pursue that because it is an important aspect of the Fire Protection Task Force activities to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. Mr. Halderman stated if it does pass it is not mandatory for municipalities to participate. They would need to establish rules for firefighters to get those tax credits. Both the Senator and Representative support this bill.

- Safety Committee draft meeting minutes from October 14, 2015 are in the packet for review.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wilson encouraged residents to vote.
- Mayor Wilson encouraged residents to get their leaves to the curb, but not on the road.
- Sergeant Holliday was at the meeting to answer any questions and provide any information to Council that would pertain to the safety of the citizens. Sergeant Holliday recognized those that assisted the police department in an incident of a juvenile that was missing for approximately 14 hours. He recognized the volunteers from the fire departments and the general public. The situation was resolved in a very timely manner and Officer Holliday extended his thanks to everyone involved in that.

Ms. Harvey commended the Police Department for the good coverage of the area looking for the missing boy.

They did a "Code Red" phone call that is issued by the 911 director. The calls can go out to a designated area.

- Mayor Wilson encouraged Bellefonte Borough residents to shop and support their Bellefonte Borough businesses.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

- Mr. Beigle made a motion for Conditional approval of the moving of the freight building from Dunlop Street to Talleyrand Park noting that the plans will not be signed until the County comments and other concerns have been addressed; and for conditional approval of the lot consolidation of Bellefonte Historical Properties located at 101 North Allegheny Street, which will bring property lines in line with what is stated in the sales agreement of the property noting that the plans will not be signed until the county comments and other concerns have been addressed. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Brachbill voting no.

## **HARB**

### **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- 1) Demolition of the carriage house located at the rear of 251 North Allegheny Street.

Ms. Harvey made a motion to approve this Certificate of Appropriateness contingent on acceptable drawings of a new building. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. A question was raised as to the location in regards to the address. Mr. McGinley stated

it is the rear of 251 North Allegheny Street and it is an old carriage house that has been compromised tremendously over the years. It is in terrible condition. Mr. Schneider feels it should be torn down because it is a fire hazard. The HARB made a motion unanimously to approve this with the condition that they come back with satisfactory drawings to replace it. The new one will not butt up against the parish hall. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Draft HARB meeting minutes from October 27, 2015.

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY** – No report.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** - Mrs. Dunne stated Council members received a packet with five or six funds that Council members should review. None of those individual funded budgets would configure a millage increase. The General Fund will be complete for the next Council meeting.

Mr. Brachbill reported there is a meeting Thursday morning, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the Fire Department budget.

**PARK AND RECREATION** – Mrs. Brown reported the expansion of the playground at Governor's Park has begun thanks to the money the Rotary Club presented to Council. The playground equipment has been ordered and will possibly be installed by Thanksgiving, but that playground will be closed until spring because it will not have the mulch in place.

- Trees have been planted at Governor's Park, Talleyrand Park, and High Street downtown.

- There will be a meeting on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Train Station at noon to discuss the fountain in Talleyrand Park.

- Mayor Wilson would like the Park and Recreation Committee to discuss whether they think it would be an asset for the Borough to belong to the PA Parks & Rec Association. He feels it would be good to be a member of this group. Their main office is located in Centre County and Tim Hurd is the director.

- Mr. Halderman provided some grant information to Mr. Holderman for recreational things that Mrs. Brown can review.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** – The Refuse Department hired Jordin Bittengle.

**SAFETY** – No report.

**WATER AND SANITATION** - Mr. Beigle reported there was a Public Hearing regarding the fluoride in the water. This will be discussed at the Authority meeting on Tuesday evening, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- The leaf pick-up truck was damaged because a large stone was picked up that damaged the equipment. It is being welded so people need to be patient.

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion that the following resolution be put forward: He recommends highly that the Bellefonte Borough Water Authority continue to fluoridate Bellefonte's water at the permitted levels. Concurrently they ask that the handling and metering equipment for the chemicals be brought up to current best practices to give employees a safe handling and storage system. Borough Council will support their measures to cover the cost associated with this new system. Ms. Harvey seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

**STREETS** - Mr. DeCusati reported on the Decorative Traffic Lights memo.

- Mr. Holderman reported signage was changed at the top of Badger Street. Going onto Bishop Street there is signage for no left turn. He questioned why you can go straight, but can't go left. The Streets Committee will examine this.

- The downtown businesses are responsible for their own leaves. Mr. Holderman reported the Streets Committee try to get them gathered up.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** - Ms. Harvey provided Council members with a memo regarding the Borough engaging in a collaborative project with the Sustainable Communities. After further discussion last month the Committee, the SCC Directors and Borough Managers identified a specific project: to upgrade and enhance the organization and efficiency of composting at the Musser Lane facility. Expenses incurred by the Borough, to reimburse SCC for transportation, printing, supplies, etc. would be approximately \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00. These expenses would be met by currently available money in the Refuse Fund.

Ms. Harvey made a motion for approval for the Committee and Managers to finalize their plans for the project with SCC with work beginning in the fall of 2016. Mr. Walker seconded the motion. They will examine the site to see how to make it more efficient. Also, they will see how to better market the compost. They will also provide a cost guideline. More information can be seen at their website [sustainability.psu.edu](http://sustainability.psu.edu). A voice vote was unanimous.

- There was an LED Streetlights workshop for FirstEnergy municipal customers on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Stewart, Mr. Halderman, Mrs. Dunne and Ms. Harvey attended and found out a lot of information on LED streetlights. They do have a longer projected life span. They are more energy efficient and cheaper rates are promised.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- PSAB Conference Handouts and Notes were included in the packet from the conference attended by Mr. Halderman and Mr. Stewart at Seven Springs.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to approve the CATA Resolution by Municipality Certifying Provision of Local Match for State Operating Financial Assistance Resolution No 11022015-01. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. The capital funding for the fiscal year was approved earlier. The motion passed with Mrs. Brown voting no.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Due to the Veteran's Day holiday, Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, there will not be a brush and grass pickup. For the remainder of 2015 the grass and brush will only be picked up November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Musser Lane landfill will be open until Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council Mrs. Dunne made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of November 2, 2015 at 8:40 PM. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.