

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 7, 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: Beigle, Brachbill, Brown, DeCusati, Dunne, Halderman, Harvey, Spicer, Walker,

Members Excused:

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

Staff Present:

Guests: Joanne Tosti-Vasey; Emma Gosalvez;

**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 November 16, 2015 Meeting Minutes
- McQuaide Blasko Invoice

Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the November 16, 2015 meeting minutes removed. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Dunne noted that on page eight of the minutes the roll-call votes were recorded in error. The first motion for Borough to appeal listed Mr. Brachbill as voting no, whereas he voted yes. Also, regarding the motion whether or not for Council to help with the appeal Mr. Brachbill voted yes, which would give the 4-3 vote, in which Mayor Wilson participated. The last sentence on page four should be Matt Auman instead of Mac.

Mrs. Dunne made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. On page two, the second paragraph, in regard to Mr. DeCusati's resolution, which was recorded in the November 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes, Mr. Brachbill said it was worded that Council recommend highly that the Authority reconsider their decision to discontinue fluoridation, not recommend that they continue fluoridating. The minutes from November 2<sup>nd</sup> recorded the resolution correctly. Mr. Holderman reported that Kathy went back and looked numerous times to try to figure out what was said. In watching the meeting on C-NET it appears that Paul's motion was read from something he had in his hand. Everything in the minutes was pretty much verbatim except for where he said "Bellefonte's water at the recommended levels" and Holly typed permitted levels. Mrs. Dunne stated they talked about permitted and had discussions on television about that and permitted ended up being the agreed upon language. Mrs. Dunne stated there was nothing in the resolution per say about Borough Council supporting with funding for that. Mrs. Dunne does not think the statement on financial support was part of the resolution proper. She thinks it was part of the discussion. Mr. DeCusati gave Mr. Holderman his paper and he stands by what he wrote. Mrs. Dunne stands by what she heard. A voice vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as amended.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **WRITTEN**

- The Public Hearing on Fluoridation minutes from November 2, 2015 are in the packet for review.

- A letter from Jonathan M. Kilmer, CNRP, Natural Resources Permitting, NiSource Corporate Services, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania giving notification that they will do a gas line project in the Railroad Street area. They are currently going through the permit approval process. They will not be going in the stream, but along the stream and along Railroad Street.

- A copy of the Bellefonte Borough Council Notice of Appeal in relation to the fluoride issue was in the packets for review. Mr. Stewart will have it resent to Council members that did not receive it.

- A letter from Adrienne Gemberling, Water Resources Coordinator, 2014 State of the Water Resources Report. The report is available in the Borough office if anyone would like to borrow it. The topic is on chloride going into Spring Creek.

- A letter from Erin St. Amant, Race Chair, St. Johns Catholic School, for the use of Governor's Park on October 30<sup>th</sup>, for their 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Race for Education.

- Information from the PSAB on the Biennial Organization Meeting Step-by-Step. The meeting takes place in January and only happens every other year.

Mrs. Dunne stated there is a webinar on this topic on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Mr. Stewart will check to see if the webinar could be viewed from home.

### **ORAL**

- None.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Safety Committee draft meeting minutes from November 18, 2015, are in the packet for review. Mr. Brachbill noted several members talked about handling fluoride. He would like to be sure that they have the proper tools and mechanisms to handle fluoride properly. Mr. Stewart stated they use the personal protective equipment. The facility changes have not yet been made.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

- Mayor Wilson reminded residents that this weekend will be the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellefonte Victorian Christmas in downtown Bellefonte. Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, will be the opening ceremonies at the elementary school at 6:30 p.m. The Festival of Trees will be held at CPI this weekend. There will be carriage rides in Bellefonte on Friday from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. After the opening ceremonies and during that there will be music at the elementary school. Saturday's festivities begin at 8:30 a.m. and goes throughout the day and on Sunday as well. For more information, visit [www.bellefontevictorianchristmas.com](http://www.bellefontevictorianchristmas.com). He commended the volunteers that helped decorate the town. They did a very nice job.

Mrs. Dunne reported the Gazette has a detailed schedule. Mrs. Brown reported there are books at the Train Station.

Mr. Holderman thanked Tannenbaum Tree Farms for the tree on the Diamond. Another tree farm donated the tree for the Gazebo. It is very much appreciated.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

### **ZONING/PLANNING**

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to appoint Dallas Gallo to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mrs. Brown seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Beigle made a motion to approve the Johnson/Shoemaker Lot Consolidation. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

### **KEYSTONE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- Ms. Dainty provided an update on the project. They had their annual meeting and Ms. Dainty will be providing information on that. Bellefonte has had its designation for a year. They have a board and committees. The Board filed for the 501-3 status and were awarded that in September. The Marketing Committee created a logo and tag line. The tag line is "honoring the past while building the future". The Community Development spent quite a bit of time doing a building/business inventory. There are two places in the Bush Arcade and a few on West Bishop Street that are vacant. They also worked on anchor buildings. They are trying to get the Grant to Loan for sprinklers the way they did anchor buildings had to follow what was needed to accomplish to have the grant move forward. Some buildings identified are: the Crider Exchange; the Elks – although it doesn't meet all the criteria but if something would happen to it a big piece of history would be lost; the Bush Arcade; Petrikin Hall; and The Loft. The Design Committee spent a lot of time on signs and now they need to determine where they are placed. The Façade Grant is something that Council, members of the community and the Design Committee worked together on. She is proud to say that they have managed to allocate all \$50,000.00. As of today the reimbursement is at \$29,000.00. There is \$21,000.00 that hasn't yet been used but it has all been allocated to someone. There is a deadline to complete projects. There is two years to use the money. If it isn't all gone it must be turned back in. They are taking applications all through the process. She said most communities have to turn back some of their money and she feels they have done a good job with that. She thanked Centre Region Code for their help with this. If there was a code issue that could be fixed with the Façade Grant, they made sure the resident received an application. The Marketing Committee has organized two sidewalk sales and recently, in collaboration with the Chamber, they did the Small Business Day. It went well. There were a lot of people in town and all the businesses were pleased with the amount of traffic in their stores. At the beginning of the year they will be working on a new project, which is an incubator system for people in the Borough to help their business get started.

The expenses Ms. Dainty has used from the Borough have been for travel and meetings. There are three mandatory managers meetings that she must go to. One is at the conference. She attended those three. She also attended one that was put on by PA Downtown, which was an Economic Research Think Tank where they talked a lot about incubators and helped push things further along. That was \$25.00 plus the mileage. The conference cost was \$639.57. And the meetings at a cost of \$287.00. All total, it is \$1,647.54. Most of that money was used for that, which is all she has used

out of her budget. There are some things that were not in that budget that she used her own money for. She did advertising for the Small Business Saturday. She is not looking for reimbursement, but there was a question brought up about how that was done. There were several other things throughout the year that she used her own money on. She wants people to know that she does not misuse the Borough's money. She is doing this because she wants it all to work.

The one thing that has happened in this community with this program is that by being the administrator of HARB and Planning and Zoning, it really gives her a step up because she tends to know everything that is happening in the community in one way or another. She thinks maybe some other communities should do it this way.

She called the PA Downtown Center and she learned that Bellefonte is really changing the way people are looking at things in a lot of different places around the state.

She thanked everybody for the opportunity given to her and she hopes that it will continue to grow. She cannot wait until six months from now when she has some things happening.

Mrs. Dunne asked if the CBICC could work with Ms. Dainty. Ms. Dainty would love to see that happen.

## **HARB**

### **VACANCY**

- There is a vacancy on HARB and a letter of interest has been received. The vacancy can be advertised on the Borough website.

### **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS**

- None

- Draft HARB meeting minutes from November 24, 2015.

### **BUILDING AND PROPERTY** – No report.

**FINANCE AND GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE** - Mrs. Dunne asked Mr. Stewart to review the changes in the 2016 Draft Budget. Mr. Stewart stated Council is considering a draft budget, that will be available for public inspection until the Council meeting of December 21, 2015, and then formal action will take place. There are various funds that have no increase. They are: Street Lighting Fund; Fire Equipment and Fire Operating Fund; Park & Recreation Fund. The Water Fund and the Sewer Fund are under the Bellefonte Borough Authority for setting rates and policies. At this time they are considering increases in both funds. The projected increase will be approximately \$7.00 per quarter in the Sewer Fund. The increase in the Water Fund is yet to be determined, but may be approximately \$.10 per 1,000 gallons. The Refuse Fund has no increase proposed. These funds receive no tax dollars and are only supported by the user fees collected. Community Development Block Grant funding has no increase. Two funds entitled Special Projects Fund and Capital Projects Funds are primarily used

to hold funding for large capital projects until the project is completed and there are no increases in those funds. The Highway Aid (Liquid Fuel Fund) has no increase. The General Fund is supported by real estate tax and earned income tax revenues and they are currently recommending no increase, but it is a very, very tight budget. A slight increase is being considered in the event of an emergency in that fund. The total budget, including all these funds, for 2016 equates to \$16,431,701.00. The numbers have both the capital projects and the operating numbers in them.

Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve the draft budget as recommended with no tax increase for 2016. Mr. Beigle seconded the motion. Prior to this meeting the Finance Committee met and they are going to look at reallocating some of the costs in the Police Department, allocate them to some of the parking expenses. That got the \$50,000.00 down to nearly zero. Prior to that, the police department took some significant cuts to get to the \$50,000.00 amount. Mrs. Dunne asked if Council like to consider the possibility of making a contribution to CBICC, which fund would it come from. Mr. Stewart stated it could come out of the General Fund or the Bulk Water Fund. The Bulk Water fund has been used for special projects, such as Economic Development Projects. Mrs. Dunne asked if a tax could be levied on that fund. Mr. Stewart stated with real estate taxes and earned income taxes...earned income is capped. The general fund is supported primarily by the real estate taxes. The motion passed with Mrs. Dunne and Mr. Brachbill voting no.

- Mrs. Dunne made a motion to contribute \$1,000.00 to the CBICC next year out of the Bulk Water Fund. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**PARK AND RECREATION** – No report.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** – Mr. Spicer reported there was a Human Resources meeting prior to the Council meeting to discuss the next Public Works Negotiating Meeting, which will be Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m.

**SAFETY** – No report.

**WATER AND SANITATION** - Mr. Beigle reported that the December meeting will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> because of hunting season.

- For the fluoride update he reported there were six appeals that the Authority will reveal.

- The leaf collection will continue this week. Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, will be the last day of leaf collection along the streets.

**STREETS** - Mr. DeCusati went to Badger Street where it opens on Bishop Street. He feels the sign is accurate. If there is something else he should look at, he would like an email sent to him. Mr. Brachbill stated he brought this up, CCMPO Memo, Summary of Responsibilities and By-Laws and it is Ridge Street, not Badger.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** - Ms. Harvey reported the Sustainable Community Collaborative had a student expo last week. Mrs. Dunne reported it was a student show with teams from various Penn State classes and projects that were undertaken by them that fell under Sustainability. There are exhibits of each of these projects available to see and to interview the student teams that created them. It was very, very interesting. Students came from various natures – environmental studies, architecture, architecture, childhood development and transportation. Some of the projects had partners. A couple of those partners were the State College Borough and the Spring Creek Watershed Association.

(tape turned here)

There was an exhibit on local food sources. There is a plan to put a farm on the Arboretum property and allow students to have hands on in growing food and supplying food to different places such as the daycare center that is on the Penn State Campus and also providing cooking experiences for students. It is a multi-pronged project at the Sustainable Communities Expo. It was very good for the students to have to explain their posters. It aids in their professional development. The Borough is committed to partnering a project for the fall semester next year with one of the classes. The project has to do with composting and exploring the landfill.

Mr. Holderman also came up with some ideas for additional projects for the Borough. Some of the highlights were some traffic studies that they did on the intersection of Park Avenue and Atherton Street. He could see some potential use in Bellefonte in some of the more congested areas. There were some tree canopy issues.

Mrs. Dunne stated there is \$2,000.00 in the budget that will cover student expenses.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- County Boroughs Association – There is an email at the table that is a response to Mr. Halderman’s earlier email about seeing what will happen with the Clearfield-Centre County Borough’s Association group. Sharon Heckman from Millheim Borough emailed and expressed interest in keeping the group in some form together. If you do you can send a Board Member to the Association. Mr. Halderman stated she is the only reply he received from his last letter. He feels Centre County should at least get together and have a Centre County Borough’s Association.

- Mrs. Dunne announced that Borough Council’s DEP appeal was submitted and deemed complete.

- Mr. Holderman provided an update on several grants. The Firefighters Grant for the sprinkler systems in the firehouses – the actual work is complete. The final invoice will be finalized soon and that grant will be closed out. There was a grant for Tree Vitalize where the staff planted 42 trees over the past month. Some were at Governor’s Park, Talleyrand Park and on the downtown streets and along High Street. That project is complete. The installers for the new playground equipment are installing it at

Governor's Park. It will be completed Tuesday or Wednesday. The mulch will not be purchased until the spring.

- Mr. Halderman thanked Mr. Stewart, Mr. Holderman, Ms. Walker and the Finance Committee for their work on the budget.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. DeCusati made a motion to approve Resolution #120715-001 for the 2015 Community Development Block Grant funds application. Mr. Spicer seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Brachbill made a motion to adopt Resolution #120715-002 for the Centre County 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mrs. Dunne seconded the motion. Mr. Beigle noted that terrorism is only rated a one and not a four. He feels it should increase. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Walker made a motion to approve the 2016 Meeting Dates as submitted. Mr. Brachbill seconded the motion. The question was raised as to the time for Council Committee Meetings and do they want to be at 7:30. Mr. Stewart will review times and bring it back before Council at the next meeting. A voice vote was unanimous.

- Mr. Stewart reported there will be an open house for Mr. Halderman to celebrate and recognize his thirty-six years on Borough Council on Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Everyone is invited. Mr. Halderman is still a member of the Borough Authority and IDA.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Joanne Tosti-Vasey, at a previous meeting, discussed the curb cut not being the correct color and was notified that it was being taken care of. She would like details of what they are going to do, when they are going to do it, how are they going to do it, and when are they going to do the top color. Mr. Stewart stated they cannot do anything for 28 days because the concrete must cure first and because of the cold weather it will be spring before it can be treated topically. The Borough staff will need to do that. PennDOT does not recall that being mentioned in the first conference that they had with all the utilities. It will be top coated when the weather is warmer in the spring in the new year.

The expense for this would be taken out of the Highway Aid fund. The Borough is paying 50% for the project at this time.

- Mr. Brachbill mentioned there was a portion of sidewalk on High Street that was taken out for various reasons a while back. At that time he was told if funding or grants come in it would be looked at but he wonders if that plan has changed since trees have been planted. Mr. Holderman stated the trees were kept in the same line as before. Mr. Holderman said the ultimate goal is to get that sidewalk back in.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

- With no other business to come before Council, Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting of December 7, 2015, at 8:41 p.m. Mr. DeCusati seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.