

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**February 19, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net**

6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Work Session – PSAB’s Resolution Process, Delegate Selection, Service Awards Process; Centre County Library Summer Learning Program

The February 19, 2018, meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a moment of silence (offered to pay respects for the victims and victims’ families of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mass shooting and 29 other mass shootings that took place this year, 18 of which occurred in or near schools around our country).

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Randall Brachbill
Ms. Renee Brown
Mr. Evan Duffey
Mr. Jon Eaton
Ms. Melissa Hombosky
Mr. Douglas Johnson (via teleconference)
Mr. Michael Prendergast
Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey
Ms. Anne Walker
Mayor Tom Wilson

EXCUSED: None.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mr. Don Holderman, Borough Assistant Manager
Mr. Ralph Stewart, Borough Manager

GUESTS: Lori Fisher

APPROVAL OF JOINT COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:
January 29, 2018 (pending approval by Planning Commission at February meeting).

**Brachbill moved to approve the January 29, 2018, joint meeting minutes;
Duffey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES:

Brachbill moved to approve the February 5, 2018, meeting minutes as corrected;
Hombosky seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION NOTES:

Eaton moved to approve the February 5, 2018, Council work session notes;
Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

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).

Mayor: Police Exonerations

Mayor: Police Report

Finance: Invoice from Stover McLaughlin

Finance: Treasurer's Report January 2018

Finance: Voucher Summary January 2018: \$823,136.79

Hombosky moved to approve the Consent Agenda;
Duffey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

Written:

2018 PSAB Annual Conference

June 10 – 13, 2018 conference. Stewart asked for anyone interested to contact him. Holderman suggested letting staff know early as the Hershey Lodge does fill up and it makes it convenient to stay there. They have a session for newly elected officials at this conference.

Letter Request from S. Corman re: Ethel Beaver Fund 5K Race

Brachbill moved to approve the request to waive the fee on Pavilion No. 12 on April 21, 2018;
Duffey seconded the motion;

This topic was discussed prior and the pavilion will be available as the park will not be open to the public until Memorial Day. Fees for rentals were discussed briefly. Wilson asked about changing the process to perhaps not charging fees for fundraising events or nonprofits. This will be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

Motion carried.

Letter from Pa Liquor Control Board re: 160 Dunlap Street

Liquor license transfer related to the Gamble Mill.

PSAB Legislative Update re: stormwater mandate

Legislative update on stormwater mandates - relates to H.B. 914 which would allow Boroughs to assess stormwater management fees. Without the legislation, the Borough would have to use the Authority. This would give the option to either the Borough or Authority to assess fees.

**Brachbill moved to support the legislation for the stormwater management bill (H.B. 914);
Duffey seconded the motion;
Motion carried**

Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce – Croquet Tournament

July 29, 2018, with a rain date of August 5, 2018. They are looking for approval to reserve Talleyrand Park extension on those days.

**Duffey moved to approve the reservation of the park on July 29 with a rain date of August 5 for the Chamber tournament;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Logan Fire Department Banquet

Banquet is Saturday, February 24 - 5 p.m. cocktails and 6 p.m. dinner at the Nittany Country Club in Mingoville. RSVP is by the end of the day tomorrow. Guests are welcome. Council members were asked to let Kathy know in the office, and she would make the reservations.

Memo re: Land Use Webinar Series

12 noon to 1:15 p.m. Wednesday, February 21, regarding climate change. The webinar will be viewed at the Borough building.

Email re: Street Art Projects

Permission to do a chalk mural on the Edward Jones/Masonic Building and Rain Works on the sidewalk where the design shows up in the rain.

Lori Fisher from the Bellefonte Art Museum spoke regarding these two projects. The 10th anniversary of the museum is this year. One of the ways to celebrate is to create a chalk mural on the Edward Jones building. The building will be a graphic that is a logo for the summer project – Imagination Celebration. The Masons have given approval for the project to proceed. She presented some photos of the building and the image. The image will be done in chalk.

Due to the nature of the project, Stewart thought that Council would want to be aware of the project. It is temporary in nature.

The Rain Works project is different. They are positive messages in art that appear when it rains. The spray is water resistant and a stencil would be created and then the spray would allow the stencil to appear. It cannot be seen in the sun. It does not smell or feel like anything. Whenever it rains, the wet darkens the sidewalk but stays light where the stencil is. This is a temporary project as well. The spray is ecofriendly and biodegradable and can be easily removed. It wears off, lasting about two months depending on the weather and foot traffic.

Tosti-Vasey would like to know the messages that will be written, and she also wanted to know if the businesses that the art will be in front will be contacted for permission. Fisher said they do plan to talk to the businesses. Cool Beans is one location they had in mind as it is a high traffic area. The messages will be positive messages – no politics or religion. She proposed lyrics with rain – i.e. “when life gives you a rainy day, play in the puddles.” These have been done worldwide and there is an Instagram account where people take photos with the art and post them with #RainWorks. People see them all over the world. Fisher believed that when people start seeing them on social media it will draw people into Bellefonte. The art would be laid mid-April. She would like to continue doing this project over the summer and into the fall.

**Prendergast moved to approve the Rain Works project;
Hombosky seconded the motion;**

Brachbill had concerns with what happens to the sidewalk when the water proofing comes off. It is the historical district. Hombosky offered that the website has before and after pictures. Brachbill would like to see an actual art example. Sometimes sealers damage the concrete. We also don't know if there would be damage to our stained cement sidewalks. It was suggested that a test sample be conducted on the sidewalk on front of the Borough Building to determine if there is any permanent effect on the concrete before we accept this project.

Holderman interjected that the property owners will need to give their approval on the project, in addition to the business owners. It is the property owner who is responsible for the sidewalk.

**Brachbill moved to table the project until information on how the sealer will affect the concrete and information regarding approvals from the businesses and property owners is obtained;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

No motion was needed for the chalk mural.

2018 Window Gallery Exhibition Schedule (10th Anniversary of Bellefonte Art Museum)

Calendar of exhibits at the museum.

Letter re: Opioid Epidemic

Oxycodone product law suit information. The letter speaks to a fee arrangement and more details of the suit. Stewart stated that if there is any interest in this, he will pursue more information. This is a class action lawsuit that would join interested parties as plaintiffs. Council requested further information from both the law firm and from the Centre County Commissioners on what approach they are taking to pursuing a law suit.

CBICC – Ramada, Wednesday, February 21, 2018 2 p.m. – How to Build Agritourism

RSVP as seating is limited

ELA Group – Letter requesting completion of a Municipal Land Use Letter for the DEP.

This is for the high school project. The letter is a precursor to application for the NPDES permit.

ORAL: None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Safety Committee Meeting Minutes.022418.DRAFT
Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes.012918.DRAFT
Comparison of Monthly Existing Structures – Rental Housing Inspections December 2017
January 2018 Permits Closed
Comparison of Monthly Code Statistics – Construction Value January 2018
NVJPC Minutes.011818

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Wilson reported on a tour he took of the Nestle Water plant in the Allentown area. He toured with members of Spring and Benner Township and other politicians from the area.

Public input session on the Bellefonte to Milesburg Trail Feasibility Study in the Borough Council Chambers, February 22, 2018 - 5 p.m. to 7 pm. This is the first in a couple of public meetings on the trail. The feasibility study will be discussed. The study was done via grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development.

Wilson thanked the Bellefonte Borough, Central PA Convention and Visitors Bureau, Clearwater Conservancy, Centre Foundation, Centre Bike, Nittany Mountain Biking Association, State College Cycling, Tussey Mountain Outfitters and Michael and Alice Young family for their donations to help meet the 20% match money for the grant.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – HARB Items

ZONING/PLANNING:

Article on Zoning Variances in PA

Stewart talked about the Municipal Land Use Letter for ELA previously discussed. The planned zoning amendment was discussed relative to completion of this form. Stewart will craft a letter regarding same. Brachbill suggested that they are probably looking to get the land use letter done as it takes a few months to obtain the NPDES permit. There is a short window to get the high school light project done before next football season.

**Brachbill moved to send the land use letter;
Eaton seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

HARB:

Certificate of Appropriateness; 135 S. Allegheny Street

**Brown moved to approve the certificate for 135 S. Allegheny Street;
Prendergast seconded the motion;**

Walker expressed concern about the door and the confidentiality of the door not locking; she felt that stating in a public meeting that the door isn't locking could invite theft. Stewart said the food bank publicly announced this at the HARB meeting as one of the reasons they needed a new door.

Motion carried.

HARB Meeting Minutes February 13, 2018 DRAFT

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Point Person, Anne Walker

Parking Lot A and H Discussion – March 5 Council meeting (under review)

Bids were to be discussed; however, the bids are still being reviewed and will be discussed at the March 5, 2018, Council meeting. Qualifications are being reviewed, costs and some paperwork was not submitted with the bids. There were five bids.

**Prendergast moved to table the bid award;
Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE - Point Person, Evan Duffey

Budget v. Actual January 2018

Current v. Prior January 2018

Holderman clarified the amounts with the finance director. The amount is unaudited and not adjusted by the auditor. This process is ongoing and should be done soon. The carryover of the general fund was approximately \$76,000. Stewart offered that most funds have a little bit of surplus and are used when over-budgeting occurs.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Point Person, Melissa Hombosky

M. Bonchack (Nittany Valley Joint Recreation Authority) re: email on Kepler Pool –

Letter regarding totals for all municipalities who opted in for the Kepler Pool renovations. Walker Township ended up contributing approximately \$37,500. The letter states that they would like to use extra funds (\$37,500) to do some additional needed work. Holderman stated that about \$1.8 million dollars' worth of work needs to be done.

The previous motion was discussed relative to the amount the Borough was willing to give towards the project. Although Duffey understood the value of the pool to the community, he was concerned about the donation of the Borough being high and not being reduced. Other municipalities reduced their contributions. The prior vote was that if Walker contributed, then that amount would reduce the Borough's contribution. An amended motion by Duffey was never seconded at the prior meeting and this was clarified. No motion was needed at this time.

Talleyrand Park Restroom Insulation and Heat Project near completion -

Holderman offered that this project is very close to completion. New windows still need to be installed. The restrooms will most likely be opened at the regular time frame this year but may be opened a little sooner.

The ADA ramp at Talleyrand was discussed briefly. It will be advertised for bid next week, per Holderman.

WATER/SANITATION – Point Person, Doug Johnson

Authority Meeting Minutes February 13, 2018 DRAFT

Stewart discussed the waste water treatment plant project bid. It came in at \$1.2 million over estimates done a few years ago by the engineers. The Authority received it late December and reviewed it at their January meeting. At the February 13, 2018, meeting, they accepted the bids. There were a lot of factors going into this. Changing gears would not be cost effective. The Authority will move ahead with the project as bid. An additional loan will be needed to cover the overage at this point. The Authority will do that and continue with the project.

The Big Spring Cover Project was also discussed. Stewart reported that the Authority has agreed to mediate the issue with the contractor.

There is a vacancy on the Authority. They have two applicants.

Small Water System Project Grant Letter of Support -

Stewart explained that this is a 15% local match. The highest amount that can be received is \$500,000. The water line will be replaced on South Monroe and up near the reservoir on South Allegheny they are installing a check valve which has been discussed for a few years. This will help increase the downtown water pressure. This may alleviate or reduce some of the expense that go into fire protection systems in some of the larger buildings. It is a popular grant program

with many requests. The Authority has not succeeded in getting the grant in prior years but would like to try again.

Johnson moved to write the letter of support for the Small Water System Project Grant application;
Duffey seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

Sprinkler systems and the holding tank were discussed briefly.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Point Person, Renee Brown

Consider Appointment to the Vacancy in Borough Authority – 2 applications currently

Duffey moved to appoint Mike Schmidt to the Authority;
Brachbill seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

Reminder: Civil Service Alternate Vacancies (3) – this is advertised on the website; there has been no interest to date.

SAFETY – Point Person, Randy Brachbill

Brachbill offered that he thinks that Bellefonte needs to be more pedestrian accessible and there is not enough being done to get sidewalks in the Borough. There are places that one cannot safely walk. Students walking to school where there is no place to walk is an issue. Several main streets from downtown to the school do not have sidewalks. He stated that the Borough needs a sidewalk program. He believed that one was discussed years ago but nothing ever happened. He thinks this is very important for safety of residents, tourism and making Bellefonte more walkable.

Stewart discussed putting this on a work session. There is language in the ordinance relative to sidewalks. Stewart mentioned that the streets that were annexed into the Borough may not have sidewalks. Brachbill offered that maybe a grant can be obtained for this work. Tosti-Vasey announced to the public that if they know of anywhere there is a need for a sidewalk, send the information to Council.

The issue of cracked sidewalks was discussed. The nuisance officer goes around to enforce the repairs a section of the Borough at a time.

The snow removal on sidewalks policy was discussed briefly.

STREETS – Point Person, Jon Eaton

Downtown Streetlight Report and Selection of Streetlight bulbs

The report was done a couple of years ago. Stewart reported that prior PSU students came down to Bellefonte and reviewed and evaluated the street lighting. They pinpointed a few issues. One

of the most common complaints is that on a dark rainy night it is hard to see downtown. Sample lighting was placed near the post office on both sides of the street.

**Brachbill moved to install the brighter 5,000-watt lamp;
Eaton seconded the motion;**

Tosti-Vasey stated that she felt that the lights were too glaring and almost too bright. Brachbill interjected that the clientele of downtown needed to be considered, safety for pedestrians, lighting up the town and helping the police with patrolling downtown. It is all about being safe. Incandescent lighting was discussed as well.

Johnson commented on the lighting. He stated that there was a study done on LED versus High Pressure Sodium lights. He stated that the LEDs are more user friendly to insects. They do not produce as much heat, so they tend to stay cleaner during the summer months. In terms of cleaning, the LED lights have less maintenance. Both samples are LED lights. He is in favor of the brighter one.

Prendergast called the question.

Motion carried.

Brown suggested lighting at the annex building. It is very dark around that area. Staff will look into this.

Paving Projects for 2018

This is a proposed list for alternate bid. Holderman stated that one project that will be added is Benner Avenue from E. Curtin to E. Beaver. A water line will be repaired and will need to be repaved when the project is done. The project will commence on March 5 and take about 3-5 weeks to complete. Benner Avenue will be closed from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. M-F for thru traffic. Residents will be notified via letter. The road will be opened to residents at all times. The project will also include a stormwater mitigation project and the stormwater drain will be near the Hill residence. A two-inch line will be replaced with a six-inch water line.

Johnson would like to add South Potter Street from the Spring Township line (stop sign at bottom of hill). The storm drains are above grade and the water flows past them. This was considered a few years ago. Holderman will add this issue to the list.

Brown mentioned that South Thomas Street is messed up where the gas company was digging. Holderman thinks that the gas company will most likely come back in the spring to finish that up. They do not usually leave the road in disrepair. They may have gotten caught up and ran out of time in the end of the year. Holderman will check on this.

Hombosky mentioned that the downtown businesses would like to see the snow cleared from the streets/parking lots sooner. The Borough streets are cleared first. On street parking spaces and lots are usually taken care of in the evening when traffic is minimal. Stewart explained that there is a system to the snow clearing. There are only four persons in the streets crew. People are often pulled from the Water Authority or Refuse Department to assist in snow clearing, when necessary. PennDOT is responsible for a lot of the downtown streets. Duffey would like to see

the issue of snow narrowing the streets (from an emergency vehicle standpoint) considered, particularly on Bishop Street. A change in the ordinance would need to be considered.

Declaring a snow emergency for over X inches of snow was discussed wherein you would be required to move from one side of the street to the other. It would make it easier to clear. Johnson stated that he does not recall that Bishop Street was ever an issue. Brachbill stated that contracting out the snow clearing may help to speed up the clearing. Stewart explained that this would need to be negotiated as the road crew is union.

Prendergast brought up site distance issues. This can also be added to a work session. One-way streets were discussed, and Holderman stated that it is good to send out questionnaires in advance to get the feel from the neighborhood.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION –Point Person, Mike Prendergast

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nepotism Policy – working on language for volunteer applications. Brachbill discussed the contradictory statement on new hires and volunteers. He does not think it is right to turn down an eligible potential employee because he/she may be related to a Council member that may serve for only four years. The Council member should abstain in this instance. Hombosky disagreed. She said that it states in plain language – if you are on Council, your relatives will not be hired to work for the Borough.

PennDOT email: traffic light pedestrian crossing phase timing – High and Water Street Intersection –

This is an update with a second email. PennDOT could not make the meeting tonight as it was a holiday for PennDOT. Stewart found some You Tube videos to explain what PennDOT was trying to explain. Stewart offered the following: “you are standing at a corner of an intersection and your path is green, cars do not move for 3 to 7 seconds. This allows pedestrians to get out into the sidewalk and be seen or visible instead of walking right off the curb and a car comes around. The green light does not change, and the walker gets 3-7 seconds head start.” The statistics say there are less accidents with this in place. There is not the cycle of stopping vehicles and traffic backing up the way it does now. There is one of these at Bishop and School Street. This is nothing new to the Borough. Stewart played the video.

PennDOT is working with the Borough in trying to prevent the back up to the courthouse that is occurring. The issue is worse since the new lights went in. The button stops all four streets of the intersection. The cars back up between High and Spring Street and whatever is happening there has gotten worse.

**Duffey moved to ask PennDOT to change the pedestrian crossing light to the recommended LPI over the current situation, with the 7 second delay;
Hombosky seconded the motion;**

Discussion was held on the turn on to Water Street. Mr. Johnson stated that by not stopping all four lanes there will be competition with cars turning left and persons crossing the street. Johnson stated that there is a green arrow. He felt that the light needed to be longer at Spring and High Street before Water and the green arrow needs to be extended for persons turning left on Water Street.

Hombosky called the question.

Motion carried.

Stewart will try to get PennDOT to come in and explain the timing of the lights at Spring and High. Prendergast suggested a study on the intersection. A rep can come in and review whatever reports they have. This can be done in a work session.

Proposed Painting of Existing Traffic Light Standards

Stewart discussed the painting of the existing older standards with the public works department. Questions were raised about maintenance and time; i.e., annual painting, etc. A sample intersection will be painted to see how long the black paint will last and see how much maintenance is involved. In the meantime, additional grant funds will be researched to replace the standards that have not been replaced yet. As time permits, the public works department will work on this. Grant funds are available for this type of replacement project. A PennDOT grant will open in a few months.

Bellefonte Chamber Winter Blues Event - February 21, 2018 5:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. at Big Spring Spirits

Library - Summer Learning Program

**Brachbill moved to support the summer learning program with the \$400.00 that was requested from the library;
Prendergast seconded the motion;**

Duffey amended motion

**Duffey moved to add \$250.00 for the collections project, for a total of \$650.00 with a request to the library to budget for the other items next year;
Hombosky seconded the motion;**

Brachbill stated that they were already given \$24,500.00.

A roll call vote was requested:

**Eaton – nay
Hombosky – yes
Johnson – yes
Prendergast – yes
Tosti-Vasey – nay
Walker – yes**

Brachbill – nay
Brown – nay
Duffey – yes

Motion on the amendment carried 5-4.

Vote on the main motion as amended then carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Articles for Spring 2018 Newsletter – staff is working on the community newsletter. A copy was at the table for review. Any suggested articles would be considered. Deadline will be March 5, 2018.

PSAB June Meeting – Selection of Voting Delegates and Alternates

Council needs to select one delegate and one alternate. Names will be submitted. It is not mandatory.

Hombosky mentioned that the first Sunday in March, the Mayor will have a special part. The theme for March is “lucky we live here.” Local businesses will be doing a pot of gold.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

Brachbill moved to adjourn the meeting;
Hombosky seconded the motion.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.