

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**November 19, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**6:00 p.m. Executive Session:**

- Personnel

**6:30 p.m. Work Session:**

- Budget (Parks and Rec, Refuse, Water, Sewer, Bulk Water)

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The November 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 (to pay respect to fallen Armed Forces members and First Responders, including the Millheim Fire Department member who lost her life this past weekend).

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Randall Brachbill  
Ms. Renee Brown  
Mr. Jon Eaton  
Ms. Melissa Hombosky  
Mr. Douglas Johnson  
Mr. Michael Prendergast  
Ms. Anne Walker  
Mayor Tom Wilson

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

**EXCUSED:** Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey

**GUESTS:** Ms. Kathleen Daley  
Mr. Michael Bloom

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Eaton moved to approve the November 5, 2018 meeting minutes;**  
**Prendergast 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: Stover McLaughlin Invoice*  
*Finance: Treasurer Report October 2018*  
*Finance: Voucher Summary October 2018*

**Eaton moved to accept the Consent Agenda;  
Brown seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN:**

#### **Letter Request re: Talleyrand Park Usage**

Stewart stated that this is a letter requesting the use of the gazebo steps for Interfaith Worship Services scheduled from 3-5 p.m. on December 24, 2018. The letter also asks that the fees be waived. There are no conflicts.

**Johnson moved to approve the request for Talleyrand Park for Interfaith  
Worship Services on December 24 from 3-5 p.m.;**  
**Prendergast seconded the motion;**  
**Motion carried.**

#### **Memo re: Workshop LTAP Speed Limits and Speed Management Class (2-14-2019)**

Workshop scheduled on speed limits and management, provided by LTAP through PennDOT. Class is free and will be held in the Borough Council Room on February 14. A certain number of participants are required. This will be advertised in the region as being available. Stewart encouraged Council members to attend the class.

#### **Letter from Rotary re: Fall Fest**

The Fall Fest was rained out and, in the letter, the event planners described all the activities and planning that went into the event which did not happen. They thanked everyone for all the efforts and everything the Borough and community did. They would also like to reserve the date for next year's festival, October 26, 2019. This has been blocked off in the calendar – both sides of the park at this time.

Brown inquired about the divots in the grass and if anyone ever found out who was responsible. This was discussed at the last Council meeting. Staff will pursue this.

### **Email from Bellefonte Little League**

Registration banner requested to be placed on Veteran's Bridge right after Victorian Christmas until the end of January 2019.

**Johnson moved to approve the banner;  
Brown seconded the motion;**

The banner will be hung on the railing on the bridge on High Street.

**Motion carried.**

### **Notice from Centre Crest re: Building Community of Care Brick by Brick**

Stewart stated that he received a postcard from Centre Crest regarding their Brick by Brick event. This a fundraiser for the new facility to be placed in College Township. The kick off is November 28 at Centre Crest from 4-8 p.m.

### **ORAL:**

#### **Mike Bloom – Update Milesburg Trail**

Mike Bloom, Assistant Director, Centre County Planning and Community Development, provided an update on the Milesburg Trail study. This was a follow up from March 2018. Coming out of the first public meeting about the feasibility study, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Conklin and Joseph Griffin came to the Council meeting expressing concerns. Both letters were reviewed as well as Council's letter based off of their action. He took them back to the consultant to find out if there would be a better concept.

Some of the items of concern were finding a way to utilize the Krauss Park or other options and the scale and placement crossing Spring Creek. The consultant was worked with closely to look at other options: one using Krauss Park, one that would fill and use a culvert pipe along the Millrace to make a crossing; and one that would cantilever off Lamb Street Bridge and bring the alignment to 144 side and go parallel down to Tussey Mountain Outfitters.

After reviewing these options, they were found to be unfeasible for a number of reasons. Krauss dealt with some intent of that parcel. Krauss family would rather not see a trail line go through that park. It did not go with what the original intent of the park was. There were also some environmental challenges with that. The same went with culverting the Millrace. The alignment along 144 also had some issues – costs, engineering and environmental.

One of the first concerns with the original design was the scale and size and placement of the bridge over the creek. The initial lineage showed the bridge going diagonally across near the railroad over to a landing spot right below Tussey Mountain Outfitters. That created a very large

bridge. Discussion was held on the bridge and other ideas. Bloom presented a general rendering of the bridge. It would go over the nose of Krauss Park and over to a landing spot on the other side of the creek. The bridge would be 130 feet instead of the original 200 feet design.

A second concern that was raised had to do with the Gamble Mill parking lot. The rendering showed the trail skirting around the edge of the parking lot. The original public meeting rendering showed the rail winding through the parking lot. That would not work for many reasons. This reallocates the parking at Gamble Mill and retains the existing 44 spaces, makes it a center aisle for traffic as well as a hammerhead turnaround spot and has a trail going around the edge. Knowing there was concern about the parking and the trail, the consultant is showing ornamental fencing around the parking lot separating the trail and rail line from the parking area. Bloom reiterated that this was only a concept drawing and something that would have to be approved by the community and the property owner. He recognized there are open questions about the design and ownership, maintenance, etc.

He wanted to come to Council to give them an update and continue dialog to see if this meets somewhat of the intent where Council was and addresses some of the concerns that were raised in March.

Hombosky offered that she thought it was a great compromise. Wilson stated that the new rendering with the fencing and the trail at the parking lot was a great idea. He stated that the Lock Haven Express published an article for a piece of trail developing out of Jersey Shore to Lock Haven that was awarded a grant. Wilson stated that the Bellefonte connector trail is important and will be used for generations and generations and although it is a small part of a bigger trail and picture, it was a very important part of the development for the future of the Borough of Bellefonte. He thanked Bloom for all the work he put into it.

Brachbill inquired about who would have the final decision on the plan. Bloom stated that a discussion would be held with the grantee in terms of the feasibility study. There are a lot of people on the team, designers, architects, etc. He is relying on them to tell the County if this is even feasible. Their contract ends with the feasibility study at the end of the year but could be extended if needed.

The Commissioners would ultimately adopt a plan, but open dialog with the community is essential. There will be one more public meeting on December 6 in Borough Chambers from 5-8 p.m. That is another opportunity for the community to give feedback. Bloom reiterated that this project is still under the study phase.

Stewart inquired what the design looks like going down stream. Bloom indicated that it is consistent with the first rendering. As it comes out from Bellefonte the trail follows the waste water line around the front of the plant and tucks in behind the commercial area following that. It jumps to the fish commission area and parallels the old canal until Milesburg Borough. It goes to Church Street and the parking area.

Public comments: Resident, Ted Conklin offered that the plan for the bridge was much better than the original plan. He was not happy with the parking at the Gamble Mill and opined that cars park into the curbing there during events even though there are supposed to be 40+ parking

spots. He would like to see Krauss Park utilized more and have the bridge brought down into the park further. Wilson interjected that he found the new design to be much better than the original design relative to the parking.

Bloom will speak with the consultant to see if they can pick up more spaces. The parking comments will be noted for the feasibility study. He is trying to strike a balance between design and use.

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Safety Committee Meeting Minutes November 14, 2018 DRAFT**  
**IDA Meeting Minutes November 14, 2018 DRAFT**  
**Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission Meeting - Cancelled**

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Wilson reported on concerns with the parking kiosks and signage. There were a number of parking tickets issued. There was confusion with signage. He has not used the kiosk yet. People are confused on how to use the kiosk. He does not know what to do about the confusion, especially with older residents. Hombosky was told that no one can see the kiosk when they are getting out of their cars. There may need to be a sign pointing down to where the kiosk is. The lot becomes free after 5 p.m. That information is not available on the signage either.

Wilson has been approached by some artists for opportunities for murals in town on some of the unsightly walls. He will bring this up for future discussion.

#### **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – HARB Items**

#### **ZONING/PLANNING:**

**Reminder: Public Hearing on Proposed Rezoning of Centre Crest and surrounding parcels, Wednesday, December 12 at Lambert Hall 6 p.m.**

Stewart mentioned if anyone has any questions or comments about the rezoning, they can call him or the zoning administrator, Shannon Wright.

#### **HARB:**

**Certificates of Appropriateness: 435 N. Allegheny Street – exterior repairs**

**Johnson moved to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness  
for 435 N. Allegheny Street;  
Prendergast seconded the motion;**

Johnson opined that the gentleman was doing a great job on the building and should be congratulated on it.

**Motion carried.**

**HARB Meeting Minutes November 13, 2018 DRAFT**

November 27, 2018 HARB meeting has been cancelled.

**Bellefonte Elementary School**

The Bellefonte Elementary School was discussed briefly. The school may be replaced, per Stewart. It will probably be brought up at a future Council meeting. The School District is planning two rounds of public meetings to discuss building use and future plan.

**BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Point Person, Anne Walker**

**Email from Weaver re: Space in the Police Department**

Chief Weaver is asking for the possibility of revamping the police work space. He would like to use some of the garage space to make the department larger. They have outgrown the office space.

He would like to set a date for Safety and Property to go through the department to get a better idea of issues.

Wilson recommended that all Council members go through the facility and hear first-hand of some of the incidences that have occurred. Wilson stated that the area is an “embarrassment.” Brachbill stated that the group could go through at the next Work Session. Any improvements would be funded through the General Fund.

**Yellow Bollards in CVS Parking Lot H**

The bollards are now black. There are still yellow stripes, so you can see them. Two sets along High Street are still yellow. They will all be black eventually. The kiosk is in but not working as of yet.

**FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE - Point Person, Vacant**

**Budget v. Actual October 2018**

**Current v. Prior October 2018**

Stewart reminded Council of the special budget work session meeting which will focus on the General Fund at 7 p.m. November 27, 2018.

**PARKS AND RECREATION – Point Person, Melissa Hombosky**

**DCNR reviewed the Talleyrand Park Projects – Ready to close out grant**

Holderman stated that the local representative from DCNR came into the office last week to sign off on the C2P2 grant. He was good with all of the projects. He will write that up and send it to Harrisburg. Once the painting is done on the pergola, the Borough can submit for final payment.

**HUMAN RESOURCES – Point Person, Renee Brown**

**Council Seat Vacancy – South Ward - Anyone interested provide letter due before November 28 to Borough.**

Appointment of the new Council member will be on December 3, 2018. It is a one-year term. If anyone has questions Council members can be contacted as well as Stewart. The Borough has received one or two application thus far.

**Labor Contract Negotiations Update –**

Next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

**ABC Volunteers – anyone interested in the public please complete volunteer form**

Brachbill asked for any volunteers get their form completed so that they can be appointed in January 2019.

**SAFETY – Point Person, Randy Brachbill**

**Fire Chief – 3-year appointment**

The current chief is on a temporary basis which will last until the completion of Chapter 35 review. This will go into 2019.

**WATER/SANITATION – Point Person, Doug Johnson**

**Authority Meeting November 6, 2018 DRAFT**

**Big Spring Cover update**

Stewart updated on the cover project. The contractor completed the work. He recapped on the issues with the project. They came back in October and did the work. Everything was submitted to the DEP. The physical work of the cover is being wrapped up.

On another note related to the cover, the PSU Sustainability students designed a new cover for the spring. After meeting with the DEP, staff and stakeholders, the students are ready to present the design. Council will need to go to Hazleton to see the presentation. The presentation will be 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12. This is also the date of the public hearing for the Centre Crest rezoning. Stewart also invited some Authority members as well.

**Rate Increase**

There was also a rate increase discussed at the Authority Meeting. It has not been approved yet. The increase is due to the project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Stewart assured everyone that a lot of thought and effort is put into how much is needed and meeting regulations. The rate increase has not been decided yet, but he assured that they will as reasonable as possible in making that decision.

### **Halfmoon Street Property**

Halfmoon Street Property was approved for the in-ground septic system. Stewart offered that this was a win win situation for the Borough and the public due to their desire NOT to see multifamily dwellings on that property. There will be only one house on that parcel. Rules were revised and written into the Authority regulations relative to this property. The property cannot be subdivided and if the system fails, they hook up at their own expense to the public. This was also put into the deed as a restriction.

**STREETS** – Point Person, John Eaton

### **Cherry Lane Near Temple Court Building**

Eaton discussed the issue at Cherry Lane and Temple Court Building with water coming from the County building. It is causing slippery conditions on Cherry Lane. This may be a stormwater issue or a utility issue. Brachbill saw the issue personally. He stated that there is about a stream of a hose coming out of a roof drain. There are two. It is coming out of the top one. It floods the whole intersection and goes down towards Bishop Street. When it is freezing in the morning, inches of ice may build up there. It is coming out of the County building. Johnson will observe it. The architect stated that it is coming from the chiller.

### **Other Items:**

Hombosky discussed abandoned cars on the street, in particular, broken down cars. Stewart stated that it is legally licensed and registered with current inspection, it cannot be towed. This is at Lamb Street in front of house 322. The complaint was for a white truck.

Johnson reminded residents not to rake leaves into the street and keep them in the right-of-way of the property. They clog the sanitary sewer drains and cause flooding and ice buildup. The police may cite residents that are doing this.

24-hours after snow fall, sidewalks need to be cleared. The Hearts for The Homeless House on E. Linn Street constantly violate this law. The code person typically cites for these citations.

Brush container pick up will stop at the last Wednesday of November.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION** –Point Person, Mike Prendergast

PSU Sustainability Expo November 29 4:30 to 6:30 at State College Borough Building



Prendergast commended the road crew for clearing the roads and not overusing the salt during the recent snow event.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**PennDOT Multimodal Grant application for Pedestrian Bridge Walkway**

The application was submitted. This is for funding to complete the pedestrian bridge walkway.

**Centre County Planning submitted same grant to include railroad bridge**

The County's application was submitted for the rail road bridge. This is another important project for the Borough.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Email re: Polar Plunge at Bald Eagle Park**

Brown mentioned this event. She stated that it is a good event for a great cause.

**Santa Claus Arrival**

Brown stated that Santa Claus arrives at the Santa house on December 9 at the Courthouse at 11:45 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business coming before Council,

**Johnson moved to adjourn the November 19, 2018 Council Meeting;  
Prendergast seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.