

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 19, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**6:00 p.m. – Executive Session – Legal and Safety**  
**6:30 p.m. – Work Session – Spring Creek Watershed Commission**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The February 19, 2019 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.

**ROLL CALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Joanne Tosti-Vasey  
Mr. Randall Brachbill  
Mr. Jon Eaton  
Mr. Douglas Johnson (via teleconference)  
Ms. Gina Thompson  
Ms. Anne Walker  
Mayor Tom Wilson

**EXCUSED:** Ms. Renee Brown  
Ms. Melissa Hombosky  
Mr. Michael Prendergast

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

**GUESTS:** Alan Uhler  
Robert Nesmith  
Ken Hull  
Claire Lorts  
Bartholomew Beck  
Christina Platt  
Michael Desmond

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Brachbill moved to approve the February 4, 2019 meeting minutes;**  
**Eaton 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).

*Finance*            *Voucher Summary January 2019 \$656,933.47*

*Finance*            *Treasurer's Report January 2019*

Tosti-Vasey removed the Treasurer's Report.

**Thompson moved to approve the Voucher Summary;  
Walker seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

The Treasurer's report did not contain a line item or separate budget for the EMS services. Stewart stated that a new line item will most likely be created when the property taxes start to come in. He will check with finance and get back to Council.

**Brachbill moved to approve the Treasurer's report for January 2019;  
Johnson seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### **WRITTEN:**

#### **Notice re: Bill to Offer Tax Credits to Volunteer Firefighters**

Stewart explained that this is an initiative to credit volunteer firefighters if they purchase their own equipment. It is another way to try to retain volunteerism in the field of firefighting. The idea would be to support this via a letter to the legislators at the state level.

**Brachbill moved to support the Tax Credit to Volunteer Firefighters (HB-376);  
Eaton seconded the motion;**

Brachbill stated that this will assist the volunteers when they purchase their own helmets, etc. This could be used to offset costs like the helmets.

**Motion carried.**

#### **Letter from ISO re: Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule Program**

Tosti-Vasey stated that this letter was from the International Code Enforcement Agency and they reviewed the process for code effectiveness. The grading goes from Class 1 through 10. Bellefonte received a grade of Class 1 for commercial and industrial properties, and Class 2 for 1 and 2 family residential. A good grading system can positively impact insurance on properties

### **Email and Oral Presentation from Alan Uhler re: Soap Box Derby**

Letter in the packet wherein Alan Uhler, on behalf of the Dubois All American Soap Box Derby, would like to schedule the derby for May 11 and 12 beginning at 7 a.m. and go to 6:30 p.m. Streets would be closed from Allegheny Street to above Howard Street.

Uhler thanked the Borough for their cooperation with all of the previous races. He gave an overview of the program. The first race is a sanctioned run which draws participants from other states. This will be the third year of the race. He offered that the people that come to the race love Bellefonte.

Uhler presented a plaque to Borough Council in appreciation for their support of the Dubois All American Soap Box Derby.

Additionally, a plaque was presented in appreciation to the police department for their assistance and support for the derby.

He discussed the Mayor's Cup race. He invited Wilson to the race, as he participated last year. He presented the mayor with a clock in appreciation for his participation and support of the race.

Uhler realized that the race is scheduled for Mother's Day weekend and Big Spring Festival. He reached out to the church and will not interfere with any of their services. He is requesting approval to use Allegheny for those two days.

**Eaton moved to approve use of Allegheny Street, from Curtin to Howard Street for the Soap Box Derby on May 11 and 12 from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. pending PennDOT coordination, coordination with the residents, and the Episcopal Church; Thompson seconded the motion; Motion carried.**

Another race is planned in coordination with the Bellefonte Cruise. He will be coordinating with them.

### **Letter of Appreciation from State College P.D.**

Some of the Bellefonte officers assisted in a special situation that took place in January in SCB, and they wanted to pass on their appreciation for the assistance.

**Reminder: Land Use Webinar – Geodesign – Using Data Transparency and the Community Voices for Enhanced Land Use Planning - Council Chambers February 20 at noon**

### **Letter Request from Spring Creek Watershed Commission**

Stewart stated that the SCWC is looking for coverage of two programs and wanted the Borough to sponsor them with CNET coverage. He explained that when a non-profit is looking for video coverage, they are sponsored by a municipality or the County.

**Eaton moved to approve the sponsorship request;  
Thompson seconded the motion;**

Costs will be incurred, and Stewart did not have the numbers as the cost is based on a formula. Costs are based on use and how many programs are televised. State College Borough does a lot of community sponsorship, per Tosti-Vasey. The fees will not be distributed until the end of the year. Stewart can possibly get a “guesstimate” from a previous year.

Brachbill wanted to table this until an estimate is provided.

**Brachbill moved to table the decision to sponsor SCWC until Council has  
an idea of what the cost would be;  
Johnson seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

#### **Concerts in the Park – BHCA**

BHCA is requesting permission to have concerts in the park. They provided a listing of dates. They are typically Sunday evenings.

**Thompson moved to approve the dates for concerts in the park;  
Walker seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

#### **Letter from Logan Fire Company – Parade**

Logan Fire Company is requesting permission to hold their annual parade on July 6 beginning at the armory property on Bishop Street and running down to Talleyrand Park beginning at 5 p.m. with line up beginning at 2 p.m. Once at the park they would like to reserve the parking lot by the chamber and close North Potter Street for parking of equipment. They would like to use Talleyrand for an award ceremony. The park would be reserved from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. PennDOT approvals have already been taken care of.

**Brachbill moved to approve the Logan Fire Company’s request for a parade  
in 2019;  
Eaton seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

#### **ORAL COMMENT:**

#### **Bellefonte Quarry Site Plan December 9, 2017**

Wilson spoke about the recreation project for the quarry site. There is a proposal for a first-class regional park that could create significant tourism, revenue for the local economy and the county in general. Families could bike, picnic, hike, and climb. The location also has a rich heritage. It has gained local and national involvement. The Access Fund (an organization that assists boroughs and townships in repurposing old quarries and mine lands) members came into

Bellefonte last fall for three days to look at the land along with members of Graymont. They toured and went to all four quarry sites that run parallel.

DCNR, Centre County Convention and Visitor's Center, CBICC, Bellefonte Chamber of Commerce and Spring Township are in support of this project. A letter will be sent to Graymont to possibly pursue this project with a long-term lease or easement. They are concerned about liability.

Wilson discussed outdoor recreation gaining strength, and it has been an \$887 billion industry, creating 7.6 million jobs. In Pennsylvania, outdoor rec generates \$29 billion in annual spending. Bellefonte and Centre County was built on the economic fuel of natural resources. Wilson encouraged local leaders and advocates to embrace the need and benefits both physical and financial in developing nature-based activities.

Christina Platt, President of Penn State Outing Club presented a PowerPoint for Council. The ease of access and the beauty of the property were discussed. Beyond the quarry areas there is potential for walking trails and biking trails, etc. The cultural history is significant as well as rock climbing which is the focal sport. There would be a mix of different levels of development. This project has the potential to increase property values immediately adjacent to the property, creates jobs, supports local businesses and the tourism aspect is big with increased visits to recreational areas. The new Pennsylvania campaign for tourism is largely based on outdoor recreation.

Relative to rock climbing, there has been a big increase in popularity. In 2020 rock climbing will become an Olympic sport. There is a strong rock-climbing community in the state and the local community. The PSU rock climbing wall at University Park has also seen increased use.

At the community level, climbing increases revenue, and the climbers are interested in supporting local businesses. Full time jobs are created as well. Environmentally, the unique ecosystem in central Pennsylvania and in this area can be controlled with the management of invasive species with the development of parks. There are also social benefits in having parks and protected areas available giving people a space for improved physical health. Spending time outside is beneficial to your health. Creating volunteering and Stewardship while reducing crime are also positive impacts.

Platt gave examples of other converted quarries in Pennsylvania, i.e. gun ranges, hunting grounds, theme parks, and ice farming.

Ken Hull was recognized in the audience. He believes this is a win-win situation. He wants to go to Graymont and ask them to do a feasibility study. That is step one and then they can go from there. He appreciated Council giving the time and for the Penn State presentation.

Tosti-Vasey clarified that the letter to Graymont would show support for this project from the mayor and council and would ask that Graymont conduct a feasibility study to identify opportunities for various forms of outdoor recreation, and estimates costs and maintenance costs associated with same, identify potential sources of funding, discuss management structures, review of management strategies for the site, and assess community interest and support with a timeline.

Thompson expressed her own personal support for the project, looking at the revenue figures and the benefits to the residents and opined that it is long overdue.

**Thompson moved to approve Council's official support of the project and the letter being sent to Graymont asking for a feasibility study; Brachbill seconded the motion; Motion carried.**

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

##### **Nittany Valley Planning Commission 10-year Comp Plan Review**

Brachbill will be unable to attend the meeting. He does not know if there will be a quorum. Tosti-Vasey inquired about the process of reviewing and approving the comp plan. Brachbill stated that once it goes through draft form, it will be distributed to the municipalities for review. A public meeting will follow. The Bellefonte Planning Commission has been involved with the comp plan through the process as one of its members is also a member of the Nittany Valley PC.

##### **Centre Region COD Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes January 8, 2019 Draft**

Brachbill stated that the meeting for February was cancelled due to the weather.

##### **Workplace Safety Committee Meeting Minutes February 13, 2019 Draft**

##### **January 2019 Comparison of Monthly Code Statistics**

There was a question at the prior meeting about the numbers not matching up. It is not broken down by municipalities, and Tosti-Vasey asked them to have that done. The building permit fees are not broken down relative to actual costs. Johnson agreed that it should be broken down further. Stewart will look into this.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** Nothing to report.

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

**ZONING/PLANNING:** Planning Commission meeting was cancelled.

**HARB:** HARB meeting was cancelled.

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

##### **Building and Property Committee Meeting**

Walker reported that the committee meeting is scheduled for March 7 at 6:30 p.m. at Lot D, near the Waffle Shop.

## **Hearts for the Homeless – Vacant Building**

Johnson inquired about an update on the Hearts for the Homeless. Stewart reported that he did not receive a response and he will follow up.

## **FINANCE AND GOV'T PERFORMANCE - Point Person, Gina Thompson**

### **Budget v. Actual January 2019 Current v. Prior January 2019**

Tosti-Vasey inquired about a \$50.00 payment for an ordinance violation. She wished to know which ordinance was violated as that was the first that she had seen this fee as income. Holderman stated that it was most likely for an un-shoveled sidewalk. He will double check this.

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

### **Pedestrian Bridge Steps**

Holderman stated that the pedestrian bridge steps were repaired. The steps are also being done going into the sculpture garden. They will be taken care of soon so that all will be completely renovated.

Johnson remarked that Mr. Berger did a very nice job with the steps. The sides of the steps will be painted, and the actual steps will be stained.

### **Cameras in Talleyrand Park**

At the last meeting, Johnson inquired about getting another quote from X-Pert Communications regarding the cameras in the park. The quote came back a little less expensive, so the Borough signed off on X-Pert to install the security cameras. They should be installed sometime in late April.

### **Dogs**

Wilson stated that he noted in Talleyrand that people are not picking up after their dogs. He remarked that Council opened the parks for dogs so that people can bring their pets in, and he made an announcement to the public that if you are not cleaning up after your dogs, the allowance of dogs in the park can be rescinded and they will ruin it for everyone else who wants to bring their dogs in the park.

Holderman followed up stating that the Borough provides for the clean-up bags in the park so there is no excuse. Thompson also encountered this problem at the park and in the Borough itself.

Wilson also stated that he noticed tire tracks on the new waterfront area. Stewart stated that perhaps the surveyor for the news sales agreement may have been out there, but it was not Borough vehicles.

Brachbill stated that there may have been some mudsill damage at the bridge at the waterfront walkway. Holderman also saw that and he remarked that with all of the rain and precipitation that we have had lately, some stones may have been washed away. In the spring that can be corrected.

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

##### **The Union approved Union contract**

Stewart stated that the contract was approved with the public works union and has been ratified by the members. He thanked everyone for their assistance with the negotiation of the contract.

#### **SAFETY – Point Person, Randy Brachbill**

##### **Porch Storage Ordinance Discussion**

Brachbill stated that there already is a front porch ordinance. He offered that the existing code will be followed (302.1-101.2, and 302.8 Chapter 45). Action taken by code officials will be based on complaints by the public. The ordinance applies for every property, rentals and owner occupied. Front porch storage is setting junk on your front porch that does not belong there, per Wilson. Stewart will add something to the newsletter for April distribution on the ordinance.

##### **EMS Ordinance**

Brachbill discussed the no cash policy acceptance by EMS, in order to maintain transparency. Invoice payments would be made between April and July for the first \$10,097 and from September to November, the final \$10,097. The Borough will be under the same budget guidelines as the fire department and budget funds should support the needs of the Bellefonte Borough.

There was a question if the Bellefonte EMS was required to cover calls for municipalities that are not paying. Scott Rhoat explained that they would be required to. EMS will submit the invoices to the Borough. Mr. Rhoat will provide monthly reports to Borough Council for service calls and show how the tax dollars are being used to support the Borough. This ordinance will be developed and adopted.

Tosti-Vasey discussed devising a payment schedule for when the tax payments start to come in.

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

##### **Water Authority Meeting January 2019**

The meeting was cancelled due to the weather. There is a meeting scheduled for February 20 at 4:30 p.m. As a group, the Authority has not discussed the Phase II of the One Water report. Tosti-Vasey plans on presenting the Spring Creek Watershed Commission presentation to the Authority members at that meeting.



## **Daily Water Withdrawal Report January 2019**

There was a question as to what the SCADA issue was. Stewart stated that that is the control system for the pump system. Communications were lost, and some diagnosis was needed, and manual operations took place for a time. This occurred about New Year's Day.

**STREETS** – Point Person, Jon Eaton

### **Winter Road Plowing and Salting Operations Taking Place**

Eaton reminded everyone that winter plowing and salting is ongoing. He would appreciate the assistance that anyone parking on street can give way so that the roads can be cleared. He also reminded everyone that sidewalks need to be cleared within 24 hours of the snow event, per Borough ordinance.

Wilson talked about calling a snow emergency. He looked into the regulations and there is signage that is needed. He would like to look into this for next year. This would make the plow drivers' jobs easier. Stewart stated that the Borough does not have a snow emergency ordinance, only an alternating parking ordinance. If there is a large snow event or blizzard the Borough does go out block roads off to clear out the snow. Mayor recommended everyone read the state regulations and see if anything further needs to be created during snow events.

### **Sidewalk Repair Policy**

The committee met earlier this evening, and they are continuing discussions on the sidewalk repair procedures. That is ongoing.

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

The committee meeting was cancelled due to weather and will be re-scheduled.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **PSAB List of Pending resolutions and sample format.**

**(Topic to be scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> work session with action on any resolutions on March 18).**

Stewart discussed the listing of proposed resolutions and a sample format. He would like everyone to review over the next weeks and at the March 4 meeting in work session, some time will be blocked for discussion on what resolutions that Council would like submitted. Action will be scheduled for March 18 for submission to the Borough's Association.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Memo re: Fee for State Police Coverage in Proposed State Budget**

Stewart included a memo relative to state police coverage. His memo asks that letters be sent to Korman and Benninghoff. A resolution can also be done. Stewart stated that this is a way to bring other parties to the table to discuss a more economical way of providing local communities

with police coverage. The Borough struggles every year with the police costs and it is difficult to absorb all the costs alone. If everyone is paying something, that the solutions would be more creative.

**Brachbill moved to support the fee for State Police Coverage as proposed in the State budget;  
Eaton seconded the motion;**

Walker inquired about the implications of the resolution for Bellefonte and the Bellefonte Police Department and how it would affect the Borough. Stewart said that it would open communication between municipalities on the subject of police coverage. Stewart explained that the State Police services a municipality with no local police at no cost to that municipality. Meanwhile, everyone that resides in the Borough, pays state taxes that go towards that free police cost and local taxes are also being paid to support the Bellefonte P.D. The Borough is paying twice. Tosti-Vasey noted that from the sample resolutions in the PSAB packet discussed earlier, two of the resolutions pertained to this very topic

**Motion carried.**

### **Consider Motion to Move Council Meeting Nights**

Thompson asked that Council notify CACC of the Bellefonte Borough's interest in having their meetings aired live at the time of the remote origination point installation by Comcast and would consider moving the meeting night in order accommodate for the live airing. She would also like to include stipulation that the Borough Council can reconsider if FCC is going to charge to have that service which is free of charge at this point.

**Thompson moved to approve the live airing of the Borough Council meetings, and moving the Council meeting night to accommodate this live request with the caveat that this motion may be reconsidered if additional costs are created by the FCC;  
Walker seconded the motion;**

Brachbill would like this topic tabled as it will require all Council members' input and perhaps more information on the fees will be circulated. Tosti-Vasey stated that at this point, there are no retroactive fees as nothing has been finalized. Brachbill stated that the fee could happen and that is his concern. More information is needed from CNET and CACC.

**Brachbill moved to table this issue until all Council members are able to give input and more information is obtained from CNET and CACC;  
Walker seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business coming before Council,

**Brachbill moved to adjourn the February 19, 2019 Council Meeting;  
Eaton seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.