

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 18, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823**  
[www.bellefonte.net](http://www.bellefonte.net)

**6:00 p.m. HR Committee – Personnel and Contract Signatures**

**6:30 p.m. Executive Session – Personnel**

**7:00 p.m. Work Session – Matt Milliron, CDBG**

**7:30 p.m. Council Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The March 18, 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. Douglas Johnson  
Ms. Anne Walker  
Ms. Melissa Hombosky  
Mr. Michael Prendergast  
Mr. Jon Eaton  
Ms. Gina Thompson  
Mayor Wilson

**EXCUSED:** Ms. Renee Brown

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

**GUESTS:** Bill Carey  
Liam Carey

---

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Brachbill moved to approve the March 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).

*Mayor*            *Police Report*  
*Mayor*            *Police Exonerations*  
*Finance*         *Voucher Summary Report February 2019*  
*Finance*         *Treasurer's Report February 2019*

**Hombosky moved to accept the consent agenda;  
Walker seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### **WRITTEN:**

#### **CATA Survey Final Results and Chamber Analysis**

Stewart reported that the CATA survey results were provided and there were a number of statistics included in the final results.

#### **Memo re: Land Use Webinar on March 20, 2019 Noon**

Webinar will be held at the Bellefonte Borough offices. The program will be available for later viewing, if anyone cannot attend at this time.

#### **FYI – Movies at the Park Poster**

Last year, a trial of the movies in the park was run (Talleyrand). Movies are planned for this summer.

#### **Bellefonte Children's Fair**

Stewart explained that this was a notice regarding the annual Children's Fair. This year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fair. It is held on the first Saturday in June from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the intersection of East Curtin and Armor Streets. There is no rain date and the typical road closures are requested. Streets would be closed 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. They want permission to hang the banner on the High Street Bridge. Another banner has been requested at the same time and date. The children's fair banner is proposed for the North side of the bridge since this letter came in first.

**Eaton moved to approve the requests for the Bellefonte Children's Fair;  
Thompson seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

## **Bellefonte Cruise**

They requested a banner on the High Street Bridge which will be hung on the south side of the bridge. The Cruise is Father's Day weekend. There will be a dance on Friday night, June 14. Typical street closing around the diamond have been requested. All day Saturday Allegheny is closed out to Linn Street. They are asking for use of the municipal lots and some private lots. They are also asking for fire police assistance with the intersection traffic. The event will be 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. on June 14 and June 15 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. They are also asking that the meters on Spring Street to be marked for ADA parking only.

There was a brief discussion regarding dogs at the event and accommodating residents that have dogs on those streets.

**Johnson moved to approve the request of the Bellefonte Cruise;  
Prendergast seconded the motion;**

Johnson noted the second page of the letter request stating Veterans Bridge from the waterfront areas. Last year there were some issues with this. No banners will be permitted on the fence area.

**Brachbill moved to delete paragraph 6 which relates to the bikes and skateboards and also the waterfront areas for banners;  
Prendergast seconded the motion;**

Wilson spoke about the bikes, pets and skateboards, and stated that most car shows do not want skateboards or bikes around the cars which cost a lot of money and can cause some damage. The pets he does not have a problem with. He believed that this is probably standard procedure at car shows. Brachbill asked that it be deleted and how they police at the event would not change. The event cannot be policed based on these items which are not in an ordinance.

Chief Weaver spoke about these items and stated that the police are there to assist the event coordinators. If there is a pet issue, the coordinators usually take care of it themselves. Cruise personnel usually take care of any issues and the police are back up in case things cannot be worked out.

Tosti-Vasey stated that she believes it is more of a problem with out-of-towners bringing their dog in than participants in the Cruise. Residents with dogs in the area, that live in that area, also need to be considered.

**Motions carried unanimously.**

## **ORAL COMMENTS:**

### **Bill Carey – Duck Race Fundraiser for Bellefonte Little League**

Mr. Bill Carey came back before Council with details regarding the potential duck race fundraiser for Bellefonte Little League. At a prior meeting, Council granted conditional approval

of the event. He obtained all the outside agency approvals he needed. The duck race is proposed for June 15 between 1 and 2 p.m. Mr. McCool from The Cruise will extend some promotion for the fundraiser.

About 1,000 ducks will be released off the bridge next to the spring house. The ducks will be sanitized before going into the waterway. They will float for 12 minutes down to the end of the spillway and before they meet the other waterway and there will be two floating buoy nets that will catch the ducks. The one that gets to the end and pulled out will be first, and so on and so forth. All ducks will be removed by nets at the end of the race. Two men will be in the water in waders to control the event. Caution tape will be run around the waterway for safety purposes. Ducks will be sold for \$10 a piece.

The fundraiser will raise money for a much needed third baseball field for the Bellefonte Little League.

**Prendergast moved to approve the event;  
Eaton seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

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

##### **CCMPO Summary Report of February 26, 2019 Meeting**

The I-99 interchange was discussed in the report and it was indicated that it would be upwards of 6-7 years before the worked is completed. There is a second interchange near Jacksonville that will be done first. The Bellefonte interchange would not begin until 2025. Completion for the safety study is expected by December 2019 and construction will be completed in 2023 and 2025. The high-speed interchange is not expected to be completed until 2025.

##### **Safety Committee Meeting Minutes March 19, 2019 Draft**

No safety concerns reported and one near miss in January where in the paperwork was not completed as of yet. The municipal building was the safety inspection for the first quarter and the WWTP will be inspected for the second quarter.

##### **IDA Meeting Minutes March 19, 2019 Draft**

Mr. Holderman stated that it was a quick meeting as two members could not attend and matters were tabled until April. The closing on the waterfront is being worked thru and the solicitor is working on all of the paperwork. Closing is still on track for on or before April 22.

##### **EV Coalition Meeting Report**

Tosti-Vasey reported that the meeting was held on March 12, 2019 in Pittsburgh. She attended the meeting. Gov. Wolf has signed an executive order to replace 25% of all state vehicles with EV by 2025 and doing that by adding 100 vehicles per year and 100 chargers on state lands each year through 2025.

Municipalities can now buy EVs for their fleets through general services and they have placed links to EV dealers on CoStars. They have revised the alternative fuel rebate program to provide rebate assistance to low to moderate level consumers. There is a \$2,000 state tax rebate on new alternative EV or hydrogen fuel, for vehicles costing less than \$60,000. There is \$1,500 state tax rebate for used vehicles costing less than \$50,000. They will be reviewing these levels in June.

The EV charger rebate program had 55 applications in public spaces, 22 in work places, and 8 in multi-unit residences. The average cost for the plug was \$6,780 with a range from \$2,000 to \$8,000. Our charging stations cost the Borough about the same as the average cost. The \$2,000 was granted to a municipality who had crews that did all the work so they just needed the charging station.

The road map plan is designed to increase EV usage on the highways. It was rolled out in January and one of the biggest needs is educational outreach. Green Cities Pittsburgh asked Tosti-Vasey if the Borough would be willing to hold a workshop program to highlight what has been done in the Borough and for people in the community to learn more about EVs. Tosti-Vasey also stated that the number of attendees for this event may be too large for the Council room.

The city of Pittsburgh gave a presentation on their climate action plan which includes purchase of EVs, charging stations and an upgrade to the air pollution ordinance which may be helpful in the revision of the Borough's ordinance.

### **Police Community Review Board creation - update meeting to be schedule**

Draft was presented and Johnson asked that a doodle poll be done to pull together Wilson, Weaver, and the board with Stewart and Holderman.

### **Airport Authority**

Johnson stated that the committee met on February 28, 2019. He stated that flights were up 19% from additional flights. The load factor with United is 67.8%. Another anticipation is American to get new gates in Charlotte and those would be available in 2020 and we are hoping that there will be direct flights from University Park Airport to Charlotte. Spring Break 2019 set a number of records for arrivals and departures for the airport. The Crosswinds parking project started on March with a pre bid meeting and the bids will be opened on March 29. An easement agreement is still needed from Penn State to allow the parking area to be built. A bid was accepted from John Searly Construction for terminal façade renovations and improvements.

The parking lot will be expanded to the West towards the FedEx building with a covered walk about two to 2.5 times the existing size with covered walkways from that parking area to the terminal.

## **Committee Review of Benner Township Zoning Ordinance – Meeting held on March 14, 2019**

There were some comments in the packet from the meeting. Tosti-Vasey wanted the following verbiage added: “In addition to the overlay zone, Benner Township also mentioned the removal of the natural and cultural features inventory that requires the developers to create this inventory and to show how the development will minimally impact sensitive features. They define sensitive features as riparian buffers, areas within a 100-year flood plain, steep slopes sink holes, caves, ice vistas, significant geological features, archeological resources, significant stands of mature trees and endangered species habitats.”

Tosti-Vasey remarked that this may jeopardize Benner’s MS4 plan and then negatively impact the Borough downstream. This would also impact the destruction of archeological sites. There are several along the stream in Benner as well. If this features inventory is removed, how will the water be protected within the watershed? The other question, based on what was already in the packet, was how do they plan on protecting the Spring Creek canyon if the overlay zone is removed since the portion of the canyon that was sold to Benner Township was done with the understanding that the overlay zone would be created.

Brachbill mentioned that the changes also compromised the Nittany Valley Joint Comp Plan with creation of more density with more lots which could allow the AG district to disappear due to lack of controls.

### **Comparison of Monthly Existing Structures - rental housing inspections**

The code report was reviewed and discussed briefly.

## **MAYOR’S REPORT:**

### **Quarry Update**

Wilson reported that signatures are being obtained for a letter to Graymont Quarry. He thanked Stewart for making some contact with some state and federal legislators. When the letter request is sent to Graymont for a feasibility study, there will be some significant backing for the project which will include many of the local organization, i.e. CBICC, Centre County Visitor’s Bureau. He appreciated the support.

### **Dominos Parking**

Tosti-Vasey inquired about the Domino’s Pizza vehicles being parked in the temporary parking zone without flashers and inquired if they have been cited and told that the space is not for regular parking of their vehicles and are there for the public to use to pick up pizza. Weaver will check in with the officers for an update. Brachbill stated that they are also parked in the yellow area coming off of High Street.

## **Vascar Equipment**

Johnson inquired about the calibration fees for the Vascar equipment. Weaver responded, that by law, they need to be done every 90 days. Johnson inquired if the fee needed to be paid every 90 days. He was reading the financial report and saw a \$900 charge. He inquired whether it was worth it to continue to use Vascar. If someone is pulled over and the equipment has not been calibrated, then the ticket will be moot if the speeding person challenges the calibration, per Weaver.

Brachbill inquired about traffic stops. Weaver's report showed the number of pullovers compared to actual ticket issued. Some stops begin with a red-light violation, or expired inspection sticker, which may lead to driving without insurance and registration. He could not tell how many of the reported stops were for speeding.

## **OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:**

### **ZONING/PLANNING:**

Ad Hoc Committee – review of Benner Township Zoning – This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

### **HARB:**

HARB Minutes March 12, 2019 Draft

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

### **Meeting update Parking Lot D**

On March 7 the committee met at the Spring Street Lot. They determined that the meters need to be updated at that location so that they will take credit cards. The surface on top of the asphalt needs to be replaced. The sidewalk needs to be installed. There are lighting issues at the lot as well. Behind the Waffle Shop, better lighting needs to be installed as well as within the lot itself. Electrical charging stations will be located at that lot as well as replacing the lighting with LED. The lighting will need to go through HARB.

Stewart reported that the goal is to have as much of this project done this summer. He would also like to upgrade the meters on the streets as well as there is funding for that. Kiosks will be installed in the parking lot. The meters on the streets have obsolete parts so with changing everything over, they will all also have credit card access for payment.

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

### **Budget v. Actual February 2019**

Tosti-Vasey inquired about the legal fees showing for the fire department. Stewart stated it may be related to personnel.

A finance committee meeting will be scheduled.

### **Current v. Prior February 2019**

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

##### **Talleyrand Park Pedestrian Bridge Construction near completion**

Hombosky reported that the bridge work is near completion and looks very nice. Spearly still owes the second coat of paint on the pergola. Holderman will get in touch with them to finish the work.

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

The union contract was executed and signed by the Borough; it will be sent to the Union for their signatures, per Stewart.

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

Fire Executive Meeting March 28, 2019

Nittany Valley Joint Planning Meeting will be held on March 21, 2019. It will be held at Benner Township.

There is a meeting to review the proposed EMS ordinance for some time in April.

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

##### **Authority Meeting Minutes March 5, 2019 Draft**

Brachbill reported that Tosti-Vasey presented the One Water Report presentation to Authority Members. It was the same presentation that she made to Council. The minutes were used to relay comments to the Watershed Commission. Next meeting of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission will be held March 20, 2019 in chambers.

##### **Daily Water Withdrawal Report February 2019**

##### **Memo re: PRWA Conference March 26-29 (Stewart)**

Stewart will attend this conference with some of the operators. It is the annual training conference and is held in the area. The fees for conference attendance are waived due to Stewart's work with the Rural Water Association. It is a good opportunity to get the latest information and training on operations and source water protection plans.



## **Jon Eaton – Water Leaks**

During the presentation on the One Water report, Matt Auman described his efforts in chasing leaks in the system. The numbers were surprising to some. He has been tracking the water withdraw reports for the past year in hopes that in tracking the reports, there may be a way to see the leaks that were gradually developing. A water leak that develops rapidly is pretty easy to see, but a slow leak is not as easy to see and gradually becomes much larger.

During the winter, if we see increased withdrawal rates, this could perhaps indicate a leak as no one is watering their lawns, etc. It looked like there was a substantial recovery in October and the withdrawal dropped off about 150,000 gallons per day over a period of a few days. After that, the volume increased again in mid-December. The status showed that residents were using an extra 56 gallons per day. According to USGS a typical person uses between 80-100 gallons per day.

The year was compared with the prior year and the withdrawal rates are up about 10,000 to 15,000 gallons a day above where they were a year ago. He hoped that the Authority would be able to review the information and compare with what activity they had during the times of withdrawal increase. He was interested to see if this information was of any value to the Authority and crews.

As the Borough moves forward, Eaton stated that considerations for repairing, replacing and protecting the current infrastructure would need to be discussed. Wilson thanked Eaton for doing the extra work. Stewart concurred. He also stated that the crews do things on a daily basis to maintain, repair and calculate whether the water is up or down and what is going on with the leaks in the system. A lot of DEP reporting is done and the Water Authority is highly regulated and they do a tremendous amount of reporting on unaccounted for water losses, i.e. leaked water. He would like the Authority to see the data. It is known that the system is old. He invited Eaton to attend an Authority meeting to discuss this and see where it leads.

Eaton stated that he would like the residents to know the challenges that the crews have to overcome in order to keep the system going and will not be surprised when the critical pipeline replacements and upgrades need to be made.

Stewart reported that the system was bad twenty years ago and 50% of revenue was lost when Corning Glass closed. The rates were doubled to keep the system operating. Doubling the rates only got the system back surviving. The Borough has started to replace lines. The Water Authority budgets to replace 10 fire hydrants a year out of 300 plus that are on the system.

Stewart went on to explain that the system is much bigger than the Borough and it runs over to approximately 9,000 customers and runs into College, Benner and Spring Townships. There are about 3,000 connections on the system. Outside funding is sought but is an issue and the Borough is doing what they can with what they have. There are some mandates that they had to deal with, such as water metering that had to happen that took substantial funding.

Brachbill interjected that a long-term plan is effective and Stewart stated that the Borough is working on this and has been pro active as much as current resources allow. He invited Eaton to an Authority meeting to discuss his analysis.

### **Brush Containers/Compost Opening**

Stewart reminded residents that April 3 would be the first brush and grass container pick up of the season. April 6 is the first Saturday that the compost facility will open for the season. The Borough would also like to put in one day for leaf collection for Spring. April 3 will also be a one-day leaf collection day, subject to change if the weather does not cooperate. There was consensus from Council to schedule this.

The street sweeper started today. It was noted that the sweeper going up Bishop was very dusty. The “LTAP mousetrap” project was discussed. Eaton suggested that if the crews can come up with something that would keep cinders in the street that would be helpful. Stewart stated that next winter there will be attempts to try to reduce the materials that are used and keep them more contained.

**STREETS** – Point Person, Jon Eaton

**Committee meeting scheduled meeting March 20 at 12:30 p.m. regarding sidewalk ordinance**

This meeting needs to be rescheduled, per Eaton.

**Multimodal transportation grant through Centre County Commissioners – Railroad Street Bridge replacement on-site meeting was March 13, 2019 Press Conference at 2 p.m. March 21, 2019**

Stewart stated that this grant has been administered by the County and they put in the Railroad Street Bridge as a potential project. They were awarded the grant and there was a meeting on this. It will be a complete replacement with one year of design and then go to bid. This won't be completed until 2020 or 2021.

### **Parkwood Boulevard Update**

Stewart stated that they are still waiting on the stormwater report from Don Franson, the stormwater engineer. Holderman stated that it should be received in the next few days, per an email. The report needs to be considered before any planning for repair is made. He also offered that the improvements that were made with the culvert, have made a difference in that location. Johnson interjected that there is still flooding over the road and it is washing the amacite. The residents understood that a culvert would be put under the road.

### **North Allegheny Street/5<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

Leaving town on North Allegheny Street, it appears that Spring Township was less actively clearing their part of that hill going towards Milesburg. Johnson asked if the Borough can come up with an agreement with Spring in that the Borough would do the whole hill and come back up and exchange with them the old J.J. Powell area (Slaughterhouse Road) or another part in the Borough. Stewart stated that he can send a letter to see if they are willing to negotiate an option

to get the entire area cleaned up concurrently in the winter months. Stewart discussed the PennDOT agility program and stated that this kind of exchange is done all of the time, i.e. intergovernmental agreements. Brachbill was concerned that the area exchanged for would not be cleared in a timely fashion, thereby defeating the purpose of the exchange.

### **Reynolds Avenue**

Gas company did an amacite cut in preparation for work done at that location. The outrigger from the Allegheny Power Truck who was replacing a utility pole broke the amacite curb near that area. Johnson wanted to make sure that the repair was made and the curb was looked at and repaired as well. Stewart will call their attention to this damage.

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

#### **Pollution Ordinance – committee meeting to be scheduled**

Prendergast said that the committee is working on the ordinance and the meeting has been scheduled for March 26 at 5:30 p.m. Prendergast asked that the meeting be moved back one hour to 6:30 p.m.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Consider Resolutions for the PA State Association of Boroughs**

Resolution in support of increasing Keystone Communities Program Line Item  
Resolution in Support of Fully Funding the Federal Historic Preservation Fund  
Resolution Supporting the Pennsylvania Health Care Plan

**Eaton moved to support the three resolutions presented;  
Johnson seconded the motion;**

The “Be it resolved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March...” language will be added to the resolutions, per Tosti-Vasey.

**Motion carried.**

#### **Memo on Resolution regarding Blighted Property**

This resolution was not voted on. Stewart provide a memo regarding this. There is time to make additional changes before the next Council meeting.

Walker provided an article in the *York Record* relative slumlords and seizing assets when the properties go downhill and uninhabited. Some of this was touched on in the resolution. Discussion was held on obtaining resources to be able to take over the properties. Brachbill asked that this issue be moved to the Building and Property committee.

## **Draft Phase 2 One Water Report Comments from Penn State Physical Plant**

The comments will be forwarded to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission

## **Bellefonte Police Pension Board Meeting Handouts**

Overall the plan has been performing well. It is a conservative plan.

## **April 24 Borough's Association Dinner - Consider a letter to the other Centre County Boroughs encouraging their attendance and participation**

Stewart reported that the only interest in forming a local association has been from Bellefonte Borough. Stewart suggested a letter being sent out by Bellefonte Borough to the other local Boroughs trying to conjure up some interest in a local association

## **PA Municipal League Membership**

Membership has been activated.

## **Hearts for the Homeless Property**

Update on the home on E. Linn Street (100 block). The metal materials in the yard have been removed. Stewart would recommend turning this over to the Borough solicitor relative to deal with notification of the property owner of the allowed uses of that property prior to selling the house.

**Johnson moved to refer this issue to the solicitor;  
Brachbill seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

## **Change in Meeting Dates**

All members of Council need to be present for this discussion.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Council Seat Petition Filings**

Deadline was last Tuesday for petitions for persons wishing to run for municipal office this year. Brown asked Tosti-Vasey to inform Council that she will be leaving Council at the end of December.

There are four seats open – Johnson has filed for the north ward; Thompson has filed for the south, and no one has filed a petition for the second open seat in the south ward; Tosti-Vasey filed for the west ward.

Stewart remarked on Brown's loyal service to Council and members were understanding of her reasons for leaving Council.

**Beatle Mania Special Event June 16, 2019**

This event will be coming to Talleyrand Park on June 16. The organizers wanted to make sure that there are no other special approvals needed. They have live entertainment for the event.

Brachbill had a concern with safety given a larger crowd. Holderman stated that this is a BHCA concerts in the park event, and they were approved. The concerts are usually on the gazebo side and this has been moved to the other side of the park because of the tasting event. Hombosky asked Stewart to double check on permissions from Council for this event.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business coming before Council,

**Hombosky moved to adjourn the March 18, 2019 Council Meeting;  
Prendergast seconded the motion;  
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.