

BELLEFONTE BOROUGH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 15, 2019 - 7:30 p.m.
236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823
www.bellefonte.net

5:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. Work Session – Centre County Government Transportation and Planning

7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The April 15, 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
Ms. Gina Thompson
Ms. Renee Brown (via teleconference)
Mayor Tom Wilson

EXCUSED: Mr. Jon Eaton

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

GUESTS: Leslie Warriner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Brachbill moved to approve the April 1, 2019 meeting minutes;
Johnson 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: Treasurer's Report March, 2019

Finance: Voucher Summary March 2019

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

COMMUNICATIONS:

WRITTEN:

Reminder Easter Egg Hunt April 20, 2019

The event will take place in Talleyrand Park. The event begins at 1 p.m. with the Easter egg pick up beginning at 2 p.m. It is free to all children under 12.

Invitation of PA Municipal League Northcentral District Meeting April 30, 2019

The meeting begins at 5 p.m. There is no cost and open to all Council members. Event takes place at the Mountainview Country Club in Boalsburg. They are requesting an RSVP.

FYI – 2019 Worldwide Ride of Silence

The ride is being held on May 18 in recognition of persons killed while riding bikes on the roadways. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. with check in at the Penn Stater Hotel. See <http://Centrebike.org> for more information.

2019 Big Spring Festival Borough Request Letter (South Side of Bridge Only)

This letter is requesting additional items which include banner approval, and items related to the festival.

**Brachbill moved to approve the Big Spring Festival request with the banner
being put up on the south side only;
Prendergast seconded the motion;**

The banner can only be placed on the south side of the bridge due to space availability.

Motion carried.

2019 Kiwanis Banner Request Letter (both sides of Bridge)

Kiwanis requested to place the banner on both sides of the bridge, and it is available from April 18-30.

**Prendergast moved to approve the Kiwanis request;
Thompson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Letter from S. Swartz

Letter related to the HARB issue at 304 North Allegheny Street. Work was done without a certificate of appropriateness. (This was discussed under HARB section of the agenda).

PEM G402 ICS (Incident Command Training)

This is also referred to as NIMS training. This G402 class is designed for elected officials and is being held at 6 p.m. May 1 at CPI. This training is highly recommended for Council members. The class is a combination and has been updated to fit at least two classes into one and designed for elected officials, and municipal staff as well. It is once and done with no renewal required, per Stewart.

Email: Penn Street Gravel Parking Lot

Centre County Government sent the email relative to their two gravel lots. It involves the possible abandonment of a right of way on North Penn Street. (This was discussed further under streets).

ORAL:

Tosti-Vasey – meeting with Sen. Corman and Rep. Benninghoff

Tosti-Vasey met with Sen. Corman and Rep. Benninghoff relative to the resolutions that are going through General Assembly. At the Corman meeting, she was joined by a representative from DCED and Mifflin County and most of the time the meeting focused on the DCED resolution and the Main Street Program funding. Tosti-Vasey also inquired about funding for blighted properties and passage of the Pennsylvania Healthcare Plan. The meeting was generally positive with no promises made.

Tosti-Vasey also met with Rep. Benninghoff and split the time equally between the three resolutions. He was generally positive on the two funding issues but was a bit skeptical why the Borough was interested in the health care plan. She pointed out the cost savings for the Borough, School Districts and the public could incur if such a plan would be implemented with the understanding that the General Assembly could change the bill as currently worded. He said he would consider the requests, but there were no promises made for any of the resolutions.

Boy Scout Troop Cleaning at Union Cemetery – Thank you

Mr. Holderman thanked BST #34 at the Faith United Methodist Church for their help with the Union Cemetery. Bill Hughes, Sr. has done this clean up work many years and now his son is taking over. They did the work a few weeks ago. Mr. Holderman asked that anyone wanting to get involved with the Union Cemetery Association to contact the Borough. The committee has only three individuals volunteering and could use extra assistance.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

IDA Meeting Minutes April 10, 2019 Draft

Mr. Holderman reported that there is interest in the armory property. The waterfront property closing has been extended 60-days with a non-refundable deposit. The developer is awaiting a QOZ (Qualified Opportunity Zone) designation. Commissioner Higgins lead this initiative. It is a big deal for the developer and would benefit them with this project. It is still their intent to break ground before the end of 2019.

Safety Committee Meeting April 10, 2019 Draft

Centre Region COG Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes March 12, 2019 Draft

Comparison of Monthly Existing structures Code Stats (Rental Housing) January 2019

Comparison of Monthly Code Stats – March 2019

PA Electric Vehicle Road map

Tosti-Vasey reported on this plan which was put together by the Drive Electric Coalition and headed by the DEP. It is broken down in plans for near, mid, and long term. It was developed in 2018 over 10 months and published last February using policy research, data, and policy analysis and facilitated discussion with the DEP and stakeholders. The plan includes how to sell vehicles, build out infrastructure, educate the public, etc. The Borough has a copy of the plan and if the public is interested, they can request an e-copy of the report.

Centre Region Code Software Working Group

Holderman attended a meeting relative to the proposed Code software, which is more customer friendly. All of the IT personnel from the municipalities are part of this group. A consultant is facilitating this. It will take about two years to implement the new software. The current program is Munis by Tyler. The Borough does not use the system and may use the new software when it becomes available. The software will allow customers to view the status of their permit applications online.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wilson reported on the state of the Borough this spring and some things that will need to be cleaned up. He will speak with Keith Rupert.

Parking in downtown Bellefonte was also discussed. A parking garage may be warranted due to the growth and more visitors. He is finding parking on the weekends increasingly difficult. Bellefonte is growing and the popularity of downtown on the weekends is increasing. There are a lot of people coming from out of town to go the restaurants and some of them may be losing business because of the lack of parking. This should be addressed in the future.

Talleyrand is a mess at this time with the rain storm and there are huge puddles and drainage problems. The Borough needs to have a higher sensitivity when going in to do work at Talleyrand. There were some heavy trucks doing the bridge repair and there were ruts left behind. Moving equipment in and out of the park should be looked at and an alternative suggested.

Prendergast inquired about parking enforcement on Saturdays and the impact on businesses. Allegheny Street has a two-hour maximum parking during the week. Johnson suggested extending the ticketing time period on Saturday and the meters can be adjusted. Chief Weaver will discuss this with his staff. Council will discuss what hours will be extended, and timing is good due to the new meters being installed in the near future.

Wilson discussed angle parking. The only problem with angle parking was that before when the Borough had that type of parking the streets were wider (no turning lane) and the vehicles were not SUVs. The angle parking may not increase the parking substantially. A study is suggested to see if it is feasible, per Tosti-Vasey.

Stewart confirmed to Thompson that the new meters would have coin and credit card inserts.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS:

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes April 8, 2019 Draft

ZONING/PLANNING:

HARB:

Certificates of appropriateness 170 E. Linn, 375 E. Linn, 203 N. Allegheny St.

170 E. Linn Street (shingle roof)

Brachbill moved to approve the certificate for 170 E. Linn St.;
Prendergast seconded the motion;
Motion carried.

375 E. Linn Street (fence). This project had a conditional approval of a fence with vinyl coating (black).

**Prendergast moved to approve the certificate for 375 E. Linn Street with the condition of the black vinyl coating;
Thompson seconded the motion;**

Johnson offered that the neighboring property has a galvanized fence that you can see clearly and requiring this resident to make the fencing black does not make sense to him, when it cannot be seen from the street. He thought the rules of HARB were that if you cannot see it from the street, you do not have to comply. Stewart clarified that if you cannot see it from a public right of way, it would not have to be changed. Johnson stated that he sees government getting into people's personal space and when there is a galvanized fence right next door it does not seem consistent to him. He offered that the applicant should be able to put a chain link fence up just like the neighbor. Prendergast agreed. Johnson stated that this is clearly written in the HARB minutes. The nature of the approval of the neighbor's galvanized fencing was unknown.

Tosti-Vasey stated that she was at the HARB meeting where this topic was discussed. She was under the understanding that the neighbor's chain link fence was not approved by HARB. She did not know how long the fence was there, as that was not stated. The daughter of the property owner was supposed to get back to HARB with a smaller fence area. Johnson is not in support of changing the color of the fence. Hombosky inquired about HARB's ability to restrict semi-permanent structures. Stewart stated that a fence is considered permanent. Thompson reiterated the issue for her own understanding.

Johnson stated that the minutes state that both neighbors have chain link fences and that there was discussion that the fence was removable.

**Johnson moved to table this project;
Prendergast seconded the motion;**

Prendergast noted that there are chain link fences on both sides of the property in question. The property owner would prefer not to have a black fence. They are expensive and the neighbors already have the galvanized chain link fences. Brachbill stated that he cannot see that a fence is permanent in any way. Fences are removed all the time when they rot or fall apart.

Discussion was held on the table vote. Tosti-Vasey stated that Council could vote to table and if that is turned down, the motion to accept the HARB recommendation would be on the table. If that is voted down, there would have to be a third motion for other action.

**Roll call vote: Johnson, nay, Prendergast, nay, Thompson nay,
Tosti-Vasey, yes, Walker, yes, Brachbill, nay, Brown, nay, Hombosky,
nay.**

Motion failed, 8-2.

Motion to accept the HARB recommendation of black vinyl coated chain link fence was voted on:

Roll call vote: Johnson, nay, Prendergast, nay, Thompson, nay,

Tosti-Vasey, yes, Walker, nay, Brachbill, nay, Brown, nay, Hombosky nay.

Motion failed, 7-1.

**Hombosky moved to approve the galvanized fence;
Johnson seconded the motion;
Motion carried, 7-1 (Tosti-Vasey voting nay).**

Tosti-Vasey commented that with HARB, their considerations need to be looked at as they are following the national guidelines are and that is the appropriate way to vote. Holderman will write this up and report back to HARB. Thompson remarked that she trusts HARB to do their job and make these decisions, but she feels uncomfortable with the inconsistency with this issue, having the adjacent homes having one type of fence and HARB asking this project to do another type of fence.

304 N. Allegheny Street (roof)

HARB is requesting that Council deny the request to leave the roof at this location. The work is done. HARB wants the roof re-done to something that they would consider appropriate. Stewart stated that this is the recommendation to Council from HARB. Ms. Swartz' (property owner) daughter sent a letter to Council which was mentioned earlier at the meeting. This letter gives reasons why this action took place in that her mother was 91 years old and fell ill and the family was dealing with this. They are asking for an exception and allow the roof as was installed, given the circumstances presented in the letter. HARB did not agree with the circumstances and put forth the recommendation to have the roof re-done, per Stewart.

A memorandum from Shannon Wright, HARB administrator was also prepared for Council and it set forth options on how to handle this project. Johnson recommended to Council members that they carefully read all of the options outlined.

**Brachbill moved to approve the HARB recommendation (option 4 in Wright's memo) for discussion;
Thompson seconded the motion;**

Brachbill offered that this is a situation wherein the Borough approved some other metal roofs in town that were not the correct material, e.g. Logan Street, etc. The problem is how the entire district was built up from the beginning wherein it was done in blocks via streets. The homes that were approved were not necessarily historical, but they fell into the historical district plan. In this case, Brachbill understands that this home is and has always been in the historical district. The owner was proud of that home being in the district.

Brachbill read from the letter: *"Despite the disinterest in the timeline of the property owner's emergency hospitalization as presented, it was the fact that installation of the roof would not have begun if multiple health issues, not occurred. You cannot stop and control something when you are not physically present. Prior to the hospitalizations, the property owner began discussions with the contractor and started to communicate over several months with other*

repair/replace options, contractors and building materials. Without notice, and during her stay at Mt. Nittany, the contractor began installation.”

Brachbill offered that this tells him that a contract was signed. With that said, he does not want to see Ms. Swartz have to replace the roof but he thinks that perhaps painting the roof would improve it. Otherwise, there will be the same situation as the chain link fence - where one house has something, and another house will be denied the same thing. He emphasized control about where things start and end.

Brachbill also offered that he holds the contractor responsible for this and if anyone gets fined it should be the contractor. The contractor was not mentioned in the letter. Hombosky stated that if the letter is true, then a contractor took advantage of an elderly woman and the police should be investigating this. Thompson agreed. Hombosky offered that this company should not be able to do business in Bellefonte. She wanted to get this investigated and get the company out of Bellefonte. Wilson offered that the Council could then be acting as a Court. Hombosky stated that she wants someone to investigate how the contractor magically put up this roof. Wilson stated that there are four options and he thinks that this project can be resolved by picking one of the options presented.

Brachbill recommended that Council not approve HARB's recommendation as stated in the motion. Prendergast recommended option No. 2. Brachbill would like to refuse HARB's motion and do another motion.

Tosti-Vasey offered her comments on the contractor and their responsibilities. HARB is going to consider amending the ordinance in general for all contractors in Bellefonte not only for HARB but shade trees, tree trimmers, etc. Anyone doing business in the Borough would have to have a license to do the work. Brachbill offered that if one has a handy man that does good work and is trusted, they should not have to get a license and if the ordinance would cover the entire Borough with licensed contractors, he is not supportive of that. Tosti-Vasey interjected that she did not know what the ultimate ordinance language would be, but there would be some way to make contractors more accountable with their work in the Borough.

Johnson added that the homeowner is responsible for their own property. He recognized that the contractor has some responsibility, but the homeowners are the ones signing the contractors. Prendergast added that he had some work done and he asked the contractor if they would get all the permitting, and they replied yes. Prendergast stated that he found out later that the contractor did not get the permit and Prendergast had to pay a fine. It comes down to words against words. Bottom line, Prendergast was held responsible. He does not think it was right, but he did pay the fine, regardless.

Hombosky called the question.

Motion failed, 6-2.

**Hombosky moved to accept HARB's recommendation No. 3 – denial with a fine;
Johnson seconded the motion;**

Discussion was held on this recommendation. Hombosky stated that someone needs to be held accountable. She found the letter to be confusing and offered that the property owner could pass the fine on to the contractor and have them pay it. Brachbill partially agreed with this. He stated that no matter who the person is, one can be taken advantage of. This factor cannot be played into the decision. He stated that if the contractor came in and installed the roof there had to have been a signed contract. He was paid and if the payment was made it must have been a good contract. As far as the options go, if the roof was painted, it would get more into the look of what HARB wanted to do. He offered that perhaps Option 2 was a good option.

Tosti-Vasey believed that in speaking with Wright and one of the HARB members, painting the roof, because it is metal, the paint will not stick and will need to be repainted very often. Holderman interjected that he did not think that the color was the issue but the type of metal roof that was installed.

Wilson remarked that the house is a beautiful house that sits in a prominent spot across from the elementary school on the corner. The property owner has lived in Bellefonte all of her life, has kept the property meticulous over the years, and he feels that penalizing a citizen of our town at her age, and with the history of work put into the property is an injustice. He stated that he would not want to live in a town that functions that way, due to a hump on a roof. He further stated that if that is what this issue is coming down to, by putting roofs with seams ahead of long-term, dedicated residents, he is not proud to say he is the Mayor of Bellefonte. He understood that there are rules for historical preservation, but this is a mistake that occurred, whether it was the contractor or due to the property owner being in the hospital. However, it happened, for Council to penalize this resident by having them remove the roof or fine them is an injustice. He encouraged everyone to vote their consciences.

Johnson inquired about the \$300-\$1,000 per day fine. Tosti-Vasey confirmed that that is in the ordinance. Johnson inquired about the fine that Council may levy on the property owner. Tosti-Vasey stated that when she spoke with Wright, she mentioned a one time fine, and not multiple days. Stewart offered that however Council calculates a fine, the property owner could appeal to the District Justice if she wanted to. The Borough would impose the fine not any Court.

Tosti-Vasey asked for a vote in favor of Option No. 3,

Motion failed, 6-2.

**Prendergast moved to approval denial with no penalty (No. 2);
Brachbill seconded the motion;**

Hombosky called the question.

Brachbill offered that by going with No. 2, the next owner would be obligated, if changing that roof, to meet HARB's design regulations.

Thompson inquired about what it would mean to NOT have a certificate of appropriateness. Wilson stated that the denial would be noted in the property file for future reference. This would mean that a future roof would need to comply.

Johnson is not happy with how the owner went about this process and he supports HARB with the project and opined that this is a very difficult project. He does not want HARB to think that Council is disrespecting their decision making. He opined that the property owner is getting off easy for the violation that occurred, and he encouraged residents to come in and discuss these projects with HARB prior to going forward with the project. HARB was credited with providing Council with the four options.

Motion carried unanimously.

HARB meeting minutes April 9, 2019 Draft

BUILDING AND PROPERTY – Point Person, Anne Walker

Consider selling surplus items on Municibid

Ms. Walker asked Council to consider and approval of selling the following items on Municibid:

- 1) 2008 Suzuki V from the police department
- 2) 2002 Ford Explorer from Public Works
- 3) 1998 Case 1840 Skid Loader from Public Works
- 4) 2006 Chevrolet Impala from the police department
- 5) 10,000 lb. tandem axle trailer from Public Works.

**Walker moved to sell these items on Municibid;
Johnson seconded the motion;**

Wilson inquired about the items for sale and who could bid on them. Stewart confirmed that the bidding is open to the public. <http://municibid.com> is the website.

Motion carried.

Set up meeting – Property Blighted Ordinance (review)

A meeting will be set up to discuss the ordinance.

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

Budget v. Actual March 2019

Current v. Prior March 2019

Report of Finance Committee meeting held April 15, 2019

Thompson asked Council to let her know if there are any comments on any of the reports. A finance committee meeting was held prior to this Council meeting. She stated that discussion

was held on having the finance director create a color-coded spreadsheet for the monthly budget. The committee will review a draft of the spreadsheet and it will be voted on by Council in the future.

The ordinance for payments to EMS was discussed at the finance committee meeting. This will go before Council at the next meeting for a vote to advertise the proposed ordinance.

The donation for the Rail Road Street Bridge Project was discussed, using two years of liquid fuels in the amount of \$30,000.

Thompson moved to approve the Rail Road Street Bridge Project for \$30,000 to be used in 2021;
Johnson seconded the motion;

Brown inquired about the liquid fuels money to be used, i.e. already in the budget, or funding not received yet. Stewart stated that this is money that would be received. The 2019 was received. She offered that there have been years that the Borough did not receive liquid fuels funding. Stewart interjected that this is a liquid fuels gas tax money that is received each year by the Borough. There is a formula for it. The 2020-21 is being looked at and he does not see it as an issue. The County uses their funds and grants them out because they do not own any roads or bridges. Some County grants have not been received by the Borough but that is something different than the Borough's own liquid fuel money. The money will be there and is received every year. Since the County is receiving more liquid fuels, they are distributing even more grants, per Holderman. The Borough has received County grant money in the last two years.

Motion carried.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Point Person, Melissa Hombosky

Hombosky reported the following:

The Talleyrand parks cameras were installed on April 12, 2019 and are working.
Brick walkway extension at Talleyrand Park begins on April 22, 2019.
Talleyrand Park Committee walk-through at park will be announced.

Holderman reported that there were some PSU students at Governor's Park working there for Be Kind Day and cleaned up some things. Additionally, there will be some contractors taking down some dead limbs as well over the next few days.

HUMAN RESOURCES – Point Person, Renee Brown

Public works Contract Signed March 29 with copies forthcoming

Seasonal workers are back for parks and streets work. There is a very busy schedule the next few months which will be shared with Council members, per Stewart.

SAFETY – Point Person, Randy Brachbill

EMS Funding policy – this was addressed with Finance today and will be reviewed at the May 6 meeting.

Chapter 35 update – revisions were sent out and this will be revisited at the May Fire Executive Meeting (May 23). This should come back for the first Council meeting in June for advertisement.

WATER/SANITATION – Point Person, Doug Johnson

Spring Leaf Collection

The leaf collection for Spring was a one-time event but staff did come out four days. People seem to be continuing to put leaves out, but Johnson wanted to let residents know that they will not be picked up as the leaf truck will not go out again until Fall. He stated that residents can purchase a brush container for pick up on Wednesdays. Staff is trying to get ahead of the game and in that process, many storm drains need to be rebuilt in the Borough.

Leaves can also be taken to the compost facility 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Saturdays on Musser Lane or get a key from the Borough offices for the facility during the week, with a deposit.

Authority Meeting Minutes April 2, 2019 Draft

Consider Letter of support – water service to Rockview and Benner Prisons

Stewart explained that the Authority would like to provide water services to Rockview. They previously received their water from College Township. Since then, they have made improvements and have a primary system supplying water to the prisons. Bellefonte is a secondary source if needed. The Authority would like to be the primary supplier. A 2 million gallon a day sale was lost when Corning closed, and revenue is still very far behind trying to make up for that loss. Since the piping is there and there is already a connection, the Authority would like to negotiate something to provide service to the prisons. The Authority stated that if Council would furnish a letter along with their letter it would be more powerful.

Johnson moved to consider a support letter of the Authority in asking to provide water service to both Rockview and Benner prisons; Walker seconded the motion;

The lateral does not currently have water and the Authority opens up the valve about once a year. Johnson on behalf of the Authority believes that the water can be supplied there at a more reasonable rate than maintaining their own system.

Motion carried.

Water Repairs

Johnson discussed Mr. Matt Auman's water report that is included in the Authority minutes. He mentioned this relative to Eaton's discussion at the last Council meeting regarding the water system repairs. There are twelve items listed on the April report from Auman. He touched on four of the items. March 4, they repaired a 2-inch water main just above Buckaroo Lane which is out by Weis; that leak was about 50,000 gallons per day. March 11, they repaired a 6-inch water main on Choat Street above Hume Street which was about 150,000 gallons per day. They repaired a 6-inch water main on Choat Street on March 13 at 150,000 gallons per day and repaired a 4-inch water main at Pleasant View Blvd. at about 50,000 gallons per day. The withdrawal reflects being down to about 2.4 million per day which is good and the average for March. The crews are constantly looking for leaks. He was not aware of any wooden pipes in the water system.

April 26-27 Centre County Recycling

Friday April 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, April 27, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. hazardous refuse will be accepted at the Centre County Recycling Center. Oil based paints, insecticides, weed killers, pool chemicals, CFL bulbs, fluorescent tubes, etc. will be accepted. Latex paint, antifreeze, motor oil, alkaline batteries, medications, or explosives will not be accepted. See <http://centrecountyrecycling.org> for more information.

Bellefonte PSU Big Spring Cover Design

A final presentation of the Big Spring Cover Design (Hazelton PSU Students) via video conference 12 to 1:50 p.m. April 30, 2019, Council Chambers. Multiple projects will be presented, and Johnson does not know what time the Big Spring Cover will be presented. They may be able to push the Big Spring cover design project to the front of the presentation. Public is invited.

Prendergast stated that the Sustainability Expo will also be held on April 25 at State College Borough Building from 4:30 – 7 p.m.

STREETS – Point Person, Jon Eaton

Report – Committee meeting of April 9, 2019

Brachbill stated that the discussion was mainly on sidewalks and looking at ordinances.

Set up meeting/conference call with Don Franson, Parkwood Drive

There is a phone call with the stormwater engineer, Don Franson, scheduled for noon on April 24. Holderman stated that if Council members wanted to participate, they could be conferenced in. Brachbill stated that he will try to make the actual meeting.

Domino's restricted parking issue – resolved.

The police department spoke with the manager at Domino's. Tosti-Vasey noticed a change and the matter seems to have been resolved.

Bare root tree campaign

Holderman stated that the shade tree commission receives requests to remove trees from outside residences. The commission sometimes allows it if the residents will replace the tree. There are 15 bare root trees being delivered on April 24. The Borough will plant them on April 27. The PA One calls will be put in this week. There are a few trees not spoken for. If anyone knows of anyone, they can be added to the listing.

County Parking Lot Improvements

Back in 2004, Borough Council asked Stewart to write a letter to the County and offer to abandon the piece of land at the intersection of High Street with the downside of the Courthouse and N. Penn Street over to Pike Lane. They offered to vacate that part of N. Penn so that the County could join the two parking lots and make a bigger parking lot. The County at that time did not move forward with this plan. The email today, states that the County is looking at improving the parking lots now and wants to know if the offer to give up that small piece of land is still good and available to them.

The condition of these lots have been a concern with residents. Wilson stated that the two spots that are only gravel can be expanded upon to create more parking. He does not know the ultimate plan. Wilson is for the project and turning that piece of land over to them.

**Brachbill moved to let the County know that the offer was still good for the vacation of that piece of land;
Johnson seconded the motion;**

There may be an upper level and a lower level, possibly a garage, per Stewart. Wilson again thought it was a good idea to expand parking. Brachbill inquired about High Street and having even more cars existing. He was unsure of the route. It was unsure if the gravel would be paved this year and the County was only asking if the offer from 2004 was still good.

Tosti-Vasey stated that all properties need to have at least 50% impervious, and she did not know how they would deal with stormwater. The water goes into the gravel lots at this time, as well as down the streets. Stewart mentioned that the land development process would resolve these issues and the plan would have to come to Council. They would have to go through HARB for any garage if they intend to build one.

Johnson called the question.

Hombosky had concerns with traffic impacting the residents. Road closures during high profile court cases and other events were discussed. Hombosky does not want the residents to be taken by surprise although she was not opposed to the creation of more parking.

Tosti-Vasey wanted to clarify if the motion was that the Borough would vacate it or wait to see their plan and then decide to vacate it. Hombosky did not think that that would work for the County because they would be investing in a plan and a survey. Holderman stated that the vote would be to vacate the piece of land. If the plans are approved through Planning Commission and Council, then the land would be abandoned.

Tosti-Vasey clarified again that the engineers would create the plan and send it to Planning Commission and they would then review the plan and make recommendations. The plan would then come to the Borough Council meeting for approval.

The road closure would not be part of the approval. The resident parking was discussed again. Hombosky would like the residents made aware of this proposal. Wilson stated that this is an opportunity for more parking, and he did not want to discount the residents. There may be some way to make a section of High Street, a two-way street when Allegheny is closed.

Ms. Brown inquired if anything for normal business in Bellefonte would change. The answer was no, High Street would be open, and persons would be able to go down Allegheny Street. There would be a lot of traffic going through that part of the neighborhood.

Holderman stated that a letter would be written that the Borough is considering this project and if the residents wanted to give any input, they could have an opportunity to speak at a Council meeting. Wilson was opposed to this idea. He stated that a decision needs to be made if it would be beneficial to the Borough to have a parking facility and can the Allegheny Street closures be remedied by making High Street two ways during that time. The Arts and Crafts Fair and the Cruise were specifically mentioned. Stewart stated that perhaps the County could restrict parking towards the turn around area on High Street during these events.

A brief discussion was held regarding public parking in the gravel lot, after hours. Weaver confirmed this. Wilson reiterated that any increase in parking in the Borough is going to be helpful. Council members were reminded that this vacating of land was already approved by the Council in 2004. The approval of the land vacating would be conditional upon review and concurrence of development plans for the two County owned lots, per Tosti-Vasey.

Motion was pulled. Council members appreciated the County reaching out to Council regarding the prior approval.

All Council members approved writing a letter stating that the offer would still stand.

Topics That Public Works Would Like Addressed:

Expand alternate parking on Allegheny Street

Address the issue for motorists not removing their vehicle when the signs are posted for cleanup.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION –Point Person, Mike Prendergast

EV Charging stations installed, space painting (green) and designation to be complete – CVS was done. Stencil for the logo is being looked at. The spots are reserved only for EV vehicles and ADA. The space will need to be posted that way. They will have priority to EV and ADA if all other ADA spots are filled, per Tosti-Vasey. Holderman stated that there needs to be some direction to be provided in this. There has not been any formal instruction given at this point. Hombosky suggesting that this discussion be deferred to building and property committee.

The composting pad will out to bid, per Holderman.

Bellefonte PSU Sustainability Projects Expo 4:30 – 7 p.m. April 25 State College Borough Building

OLD BUSINESS:

Downtown Bellefonte, Inc. May 20 work session re: Keystone Communities Designation (6:30 p.m.)

EV Workshop, tentative for August 9-10 with location TBD

The workshop meeting will be August 9-10 and the location is still being worked out. The courthouse annex is a possibility, per Tosti-Vasey. If it cannot be reserved, the workshop will be held in Council chambers.

Centre County Boroughs Association dinner 6 p.m. April 24 at Match Factory – speaker: Michael Pipe

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider Approval Restore Pa Resolution 04152019-01 and forwarding to State Legislature

**Johnson moved to approve the resolution 04152019-01;
Prendergast seconded the motion;**

The resolution would allow the improvements of infrastructure, i.e. high-speed internet, weather related losses, monies to communities for land banks, and acquiring and fixing up blighted buildings, removing lead, and some additional environmental programs.

Johnson called the question.

Motion carried.

Mental Health Warrants and the Police Department

Wilson stated that in light of the recent shooting in State College, he will be meeting with Weaver and the Sergeants to review the procedure for delivery of mental health paperwork. He realizes the dangers and training will be reviewed with the police department.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business coming before Council,

**Prendergast moved to adjourn the April 15, 2019 Council Meeting;
Thompson seconded the motion;
Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.