

**Economy Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
26 Feb 2019**

MEETING was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council President Brian Westrom, also present were Vice-President RJ Burns, Mr Gary Bucuren, Mrs Audrey Mutschler, Mr Frank Morrone, Mr Tom Fetkovich, and Mayor Jo Ann Borato.

ABSENT: Mrs Pat Skonieczny - illness

MOMENT OF SILENCE.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pension Plans Review: Mr Bill Vescio, from Vescio Asset Management, presented a brief overview of the pension plans. Last year there were a number of factors affecting the market; trade tariffs, The Fed raised interest rates China began to slow down, and then the government shut-down. This all culminated in the last quarter of 2018 and as a result the plans were down. The good news is nearly all of those losses were made up for in January 2019.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Mr Westrom welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested the discussion(s) regarding borough business be kept to 3 – 5 minutes.

Amy Gonzalez, from Penn Energy Resources, stated since there is so much interest in the B50 well pad, she and others at work have been discussing hosting an informational meeting for residents in the coming weeks. This will allow them to provide a true overview of their operations and company and going into more detail regarding the road work.

Steven White, 475 Amsler Ridge Rd has 347 people on a petition who want a public hearing and not just an informational session. They want input on public record before any more decisions are made; particularly making a residential road an access road. Penn Energy has put Council and residents in a bad position and building in a neighborhood is not being a good neighbor. Penn Energy is not properly insured or bonded. One bond for \$100,000 for all three sites is not adequate. All policies are out of date. The geotech plan calls for \$410,000 for one slide, Mrs Gonzalez said \$700,000. Their report states in conclusion further monitoring is recommended to make a more accurate assessment in slopes stability however, it's assumed the earth is stable and no further action is required. They're not going to do anything. Mayor Borato stated in the geotech report they will be fixing the slide for \$400,000 and with everything else it will be a \$700,000 project. Mrs Gonzalez interjected that Mr White may be referencing an earlier report, and the geotech report is up to date. We need a public hearing, there needs to be a debate over the borough road. Mr Askar interjected that the borough has some control when issuing an overweight vehicle permit and Council is taking a deliberative approach. Mr White invites Lisa Marcucci.

Mrs Marcucci works for Environmental Integrity Project. She doesn't like the format Penn Energy has suggested for a meeting and feels an open format, open Q&A is more appropriate. The state requires a two-step approval process and encourages municipalities to do the same with extensive checklists and no approvals are made until everything has been checked off. She gave Council written information regarding this process.

Kim Cappel 100 Chestnut Court stated Amsler Ridge Road is unsafe and their quality of life will suffer. For each well there will be 2000 truck trips times the number of wells per pad. If you haven't been to our area please go there and see.

Ron Mullen 57 Blossom Ln. How far are they going to redo the road? Mr Burns replied up to their well site. The lights at night are going to be like daylight, He's had to swerve just to miss cars, what is going to happen with trucks?

Kasi Devinney 484 Amsler Ridge Rd is very disappointed in council. She stated the borough had a binder since last October, that's when an informative meeting should have taken place. Can the council make a motion to have an education meeting to let us know how this will affect us?

Brian Warren, Hickory Dr, this has nothing to do with royalties, it has to do with where the pads go in. Other boroughs have taken control, council can do the same. Find the safest locations and least inconvenient, not in neighborhoods. The zoning ordinance can be changed. In 2013 the borough adopted a zoning ordinance as proscribed by the state. The borough may be sued by residents for this.

Mirro Cappel, 100 Chestnut Court, when the Conditional Use was approved it wasn't discussed. Council represents the people, not Penn Energy. Why are you considering this road? Mayor Borato stated we are still gathering information. This is depleting the quality of life.

Tim Pitts, 108 Almond Way, wants clarification, Penn Energy has no plan to improve the road other than to remediate the slip. Ms Gonzalez responded, the plan is to address the slip and strengthen the road via full depth reclamation and there may be some slight widening. Penn Energy should consider the amount of rainfall we've had.

Roger Kowal, 479 Amsler Ridge Rd, you're putting a well pad in a residential neighborhood. He's in one of the red rings and doesn't know what it means. We need to change our ordinances like others have done.

Don Barto, 532 Friel Road, received a flyer stating there will be a well, #32, off Friel Road and does anyone know anything about it? Someone said it was brought up at a Franklin Park Borough meeting.

Patty Martelli, 709 Amsler Ridge Road, directly across from the well. The gas company bought the property for \$10 in 2015. She won't be able to enjoy her property with all the noise.

Dave Frier, 378 Friel Road, is a realtor, wells do not help property values. We've had strict codes all along and know Council is letting this happen. Quality of life is going down. Please help us.

Tracy Sutton 1905 Big Sewickley Creek, with all the slides drainage should be addressed. Mayor Borato mentioned the geotech report is available at the Borough Office.

Eric Miller, 125 Hickory Dr, things have happened that we can't change. In the 70s they strip mined north of Zelienople and said nothing bad would happen. His concern is this activity could do harm for decades to come.

Minutes: February 12, 2019 are not ready at this time. **Motion by Mr Burns, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, to table the minutes, all voted aye.**

Committee Reports:

Ordinance: No report

Public Safety: No report

Property and Building: No report

Personnel: Mr Westrom stated the committee will be interviewing for a new Borough Secretary next Wednesday and asked if everyone had a chance to review the ADP HR Pro to produce a new Employee Handbook. It was reviewed favorably. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Fetkovich to approve the ADP HRPro package, all voted aye.** Mr Westrom would like to have an Executive session to discuss the Manager's salary and the wages for the Code Enforcement Officers and Office Assistant, with a possible vote.

Finance: Mrs Mutschler asked if there is a budget report and treasurers report. Mr Kunkle responded that Mrs Petalino is working on the Treasurer's report and since she's not used to preparing this report it's taking longer than usual. Mrs Mutschler would like an executive session regarding personnel.

Public Works: No Report

Parks & Recreation: Mr Fetkovich reported the Recreation Board has set April 6th as the annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny; more details will follow.

Mayors Report: At a recent meeting Council amended the motion to purchase a 2019 Ford Interceptor for a 2020 model. She asked Council to amend the previous motion to purchase the Interceptor for \$33,305 from C Harpar. **Motion by Mr Burns, seconded by Mr Morrone.** It is the same vehicle as the 2019 but with a better dealer discount. Mr Westrom asked if this includes all the add-ons? Mayor Borato responded no, that will be done by Ibis, Tek. There being no further questions, **all voted aye.**

Mayor Borato stated all of the Tasers are in and everyone has been trained.

MnP cameras from the Municipal building are feeding the Chief's computer.

There is a new program in the schools called Safe to Say, which is for students who are afraid to report potential threats.

Mayor Borato also has Kathy's contract for signatures.

Solicitor: Mr Askar has not had the opportunity to talk with Mr Kail about the BIU matter, so it will be addressed later.

Mr Askar hasn't had the chance to talk with Mr Shoup, but he found out that Lennon Smith Souleret has a lot of experience in dealing with gas companies. It was suggested that they provide a price as well as the company Mr Shoup received one from. This should be done before entering into an MOU with Penn Energy to cover professional costs. Mr Askar will go over this with Mr Shoup.

Mr Askar asked if Council wants to have an informational meeting held by Penn Energy or have a Public Hearing. Mr Fetkovich favors a Public Hearing. **Motion by Mr Fetkovich, seconded by Mr Burns, to hold a Public Hearing on the Penn Energy Amsler Ridge Road project to be held at a future date, time and location, all voted aye.** Mr Askar will inform Penn Energy of this. The Jr High and Fire Department Social Hall will be looked into as possible locations.

Mr Askar asked that the proposal from Garvin, Boward and Beitko to review Penn Energy's Geotech report and make their own assessment of their work be tabled. **Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Fetkovich, to table the Garvin, Boward and Beitko agreement, all voted aye.**

Engineer:

Old Business:

The Cortright house demolition on Springer road started yesterday and may be finished by now.

Mrs Mutschler asked if Yates had been contacted about the lights being turned on 24/7 on Economy Way. They have not been contacted by Mr Kunkle but will be.

Mrs Mutschler stated a motion was made at the last meeting to advertise for a public works employee and she hasn't seen the advertisement yet. The Manager will get the ad to the Personnel Committee for final review before advertising.

Mrs Mutschler asked if the time clock is up and running. Mr Kunkle responded it's up but not running yet. This is to be a top priority

Mayor Borato asked Mr Kunkle if BIU had sent a check to pay for the trap EBMA paid to install on Oakhaven? Mr Kunkle stated this is being handled through the Solicitor.

New Business:

Mr Burns feels an engine brake ordinance should be looked into (due to the well drilling). Mr Bucuren feels these brakes are a safety issue.

Mrs Mutschler mentions (again) complaints about feral cats and since we don't have an ordinance concerning cats, Animal Control can't do anything about them. This will be discussed with Mrs Skonieczny and possibly be referred to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Mr Burns, to suspend the regular meeting and go into executive session, seconded by Mr Bucuren, all voted aye.

Motion to return to regular session by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mrs Mutschler, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Burns, seconded by Mr Morrone, to give the Office Assistant a \$2.00 raise to \$17.00 per hour, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Burns, seconded by Mr Morrone, to give Mr Thomas, Code Enforcement Officer a \$1.50 per hour increase to \$15.00 per hour, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to table the Manager's salary, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Fetkovich, seconded by Mrs Mutschler, to add an addendum to the union contracts to begin health insurance benefits for new employees on the first day of the month in which they reach 90 days of service.

Motion by Mrs Mutschler, seconded by Mr Burns to have a check written to cover the two new Public Works employee's health insurance, all voted aye.

Mrs Mutschler wants Council to give the manager a directive to have the time clock up and running by Friday so the Personnel Committee can establish a policy on its use. Mr Fetkovich stated it's a straight forward process but if there are any issues to call him or Mayor Borato.

Motion by Mrs Fetkovich, seconded by Mr Burns, to adjourn the meeting at 9:26, all voted aye.

Submitted by

Randy S Kunkle, Borough Manager