

**Economy Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
10 Mar 2020**

MEETING was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council Vice President Frank Morrone, also present were Mr Gary Bucuren, Mr Roger Kowal, Mr Jeffrey Ruckert and Mr Don Sivy. Others present included Mayor Jo Ann Borato, Borough Manager Randy Kunkle, Solicitor Joseph Askar and Engineer Scott Shoup.

ABSENT: Mr Westrom, Mrs Skonieczny

MOMENT OF SILENCE.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr Morrone announced there was no meeting on February 25th due to a lack of a quorum.

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

Joyce Rexroad, 160 Ridge Ave. a lot of residents aren't happy with Comcast. She said other providers couldn't come in while Comcast had the franchise. Go Net Speed is in Baden but wouldn't come here. **Mayor Borato** asked the Solicitor if we could negotiate a price with Comcast for a franchise renewal? The answer was affirmative. The Borough anticipates \$205,000 in franchise fees this year that Council will have to consider. **Mr Kunkle** will contact the government liaisons for Comcast, Verizon and Go Net Speed to see what happens if we don't renew the franchise.

Bob Meegan of the Borough Planning Commission, explained that last year the commission, in attempting to keep up with the times and looking into the future, proposed a low impact commercial overlay district along Conway Wallrose Road from the former Keystone Creamery to Big Sewickley Creek Road. Restrictions would maintain residential neighborhoods. Traffic was discussed as well as using Northern Lights Shopping Center for commercial activities. Since this would involve a zoning amendment and zoning map amendment there would have to be a public hearing and affected property owners notified. The Commission is willing to discuss this further to better explain the objectives. Information will be distributed, and the subject will be brought up next month.

Meeting Minutes: 10 Dec 2019: Motion by Mr Kowal, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to approve the December 10th minutes, all voted aye

Minutes: 28 Jan 2020: Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Sivy, to approve the minutes, all voted aye.

Minutes: 11 Feb 2020: Motion by Mr Kowal, seconded by Mr Bucuren, to approve the minutes, all voted aye.

Finance Committee: Mr Sivy asked what the deductible is for the building regarding the fire; Mr Kunkle will confirm the amount. Mr Kowal questioned the mailboxes on the list of bills; these were hit while plowing and the borough replaces them. Mr Kowal also questioned the purchase of a weapon light by an officer who will be retiring in two months; the Mayor noted the uniform allowance is part of the collective bargaining agreement.

Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Sivy, to approve the list of bills, all voted aye. Mr Bucuren abstained from the bills in Public Works due to his brother works there.

Public Works Committee: Mr Sivy stated we are obligated to buy 500 more tons of salt and don't have room for it all. Many municipalities are in the same situation and there is hope the state will give some relief. There was a mud slide on Cooney Hollow that was taken care of. The Front Loader/High lift needs some major repairs, it's a 2004 John Deere, a lot of it must be taken apart to make the repairs, best case is \$12,000. Someone from John Deere will be out to make a further assessment. The 2007 Peterbuilt is out of service due to the hoist/support under the bed needs to be replaced; it's rusted out. This will cost \$9,000 to \$10,000. This truck must make it through another winter.

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Morrone, to repair the 2007 Peterbuilt for no more than \$10,000, all voted aye.

Parks and Recreation: Mr Bucuren reported there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 1pm on April 4th at the playground behind the Municipal Building; in case of rain it will be held in the Community Building.

Ordinance Committee: No report.

Public Safety: No report.

Property and Buildings: Mr Morrone reported we have bids to replace the carpet in the Municipal Building and Tax Office. The total is \$8,542.45 (\$6,168.78 Municipal Bldg: \$2,373.67 tax Office).

Motion by Mr Morrone, seconded by Mr Kowal, to replace the carpeting in the Municipal Building and Tax Collector's office for a total price of \$8,542.45 by Kress Brothers, all voted aye.

Personnel Committee: Mr Ruckert stated he has a subject involving personnel in the Borough Office requiring an Executive Session with a vote.

Mayors Report: **Mayor Borato** reported the February Police Report will be on file in the Borough Office. She also reported the Civil Service Commission provided a list of the top three candidates, two of whom are veterans meaning one of them must be offered the job. She and the Chief recommend Scott Broge. **Motion by Mr Ruckert, Mr Kowal** asked if he is related to anyone in the Police Department, the answer was negative, he asked if the Mayor was certain. **Seconded by Mr Morrone, to offer Scott Broge a full-time police officer position, all voted aye.**

Discussion also took place regarding Animal Control Services and whether they are worth the \$550 we pay them each month. Over the last two years they received 456 calls. Ms Secrete from Animal Control will attend an upcoming Council Meeting.

Solicitor's Report: There is a matter of potential litigation he wants to discuss in Executive Session.

Engineer's Report: Mr Shoup met with Mr Brickner and have selected the following roads for this summer's paving plan: Amsler Ridge Road from Campbell to Orchard Estates, Ridge Ave from Woodcroft to Evans City Road, Park Hill Road, Re-do the line striping on Economy Way. Alternates include Woodcroft Road and a few of the Roads in Sunset Hills. **Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Ruckert, to advertise for bids the 2020 Road Paving Plan, all voted aye.**

Old Business: Breezeway Ordinance. The Solicitor mentioned Mrs Skonieczny has some thoughts on this but is not present. **Motion by Mr Bucuren, seconded by Mr Kowal, to table this ordinance, all voted aye.**

Sell the paver and purchase a bucket truck: Even though the paver has not been used lately it has saved money in the past and is still in working order. A bucket truck requires certifications, safety training and will raise insurance rates; Mr Morrone feels there are better uses for the money. **Motion by Mr Morrone to take these items off the agenda;** it was determined that a motion wasn't necessary to remove the items.

Heavy Trucks using Shaffer Road: Mayor Borato responded new signs were installed at the top and bottom.

Concord Church Road: Discussion took place regarding the different portions of the road, what was included in 1983 when the Borough turned a portion of the road over to Concord Church, the cul-de-sac and road do not meet Borough specifications and the possibility of tar and chipping and then abandoning it. Mr Shoup explained the abandoning process. The road can be vacated via ordinance, however, property owners along the vacated road could sue for loss of value.

Volunteers Guidelines: Mayor Borato is against having volunteers in the office as there is a right to know process already in place, Mr Morrone agreed and appreciates the offer. Mr Ruckert is concerned with how someone might be approved and someone else is turned down.

Ordinance – Mandatory Garbage Collection: Being the first time this subject was brought up, numerous aspects of this were discussed. Once the Ordinance Committee is finalized this may be investigated further.

Advertise for Summer Help: After some discussion it was determined that rather than advertising, the Manager would find out from the Municipal Authority's Manager who she spoke to at the School District who found summer help for them last year. H will also contact Vo-Tech.

Personnel: Police Chief and Maintenance. This will be talked about in Executive Session.

Mr Kowal suggested a change to Council's meeting practices. At the beginning of the meeting residents should be allowed to talk for 3 to 5 minutes only about items on the agenda. At the end of the meeting a second Public Hearing session should take place where residents can talk about anything. Numerous suggestions/discussions among Council ensued.

Motion to suspend the regular session of Council and go into Executive Session by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Ruckert, all voted aye at 8:45.

Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Sivy, to return to regular session, all voted aye at 9:20.

Motion by Mr Ruckert, seconded by Mr Kowal, to offer the Borough Secretary job to Daisy Stone, all voted aye.

Motion by Mr Sivy, seconded by Mr Kowal, to adjourn at 9:21, all voted aye.

Submitted by

Randy S Kunkle
Borough Manager