

WRIGHTSVILLE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 5, 2009 MEETING  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Young, who led the salute to the American flag. Also present were Council members M. McDonald, E. Sipes, T. Groft, N. Habecker, J. Cressler, Mayor Lindeman, Brooke Say for Solicitor, Engineer Klinedinst who arrived at 8:30 p.m., Treasurer Brenner and Police Chief Pearson. The meeting was being recorded.

Rene Snyder – Discussed letter he received from Borough Secretary regarding paying a portion of the survey that determined that the drop-off is on the Hidden Valley Mobile Home Park property. Mr. Snyder feels the fence is in the Borough right-of-way. Mr. Habecker explained the hazard is on Mr. Snyder's property and that the Borough's solicitor had advised not to protect someone else's hazard.

Sandy Waugh – Concerned that Eric White, who is on the Civil Service Commission, has 4 porn stars working for him and presented a copy from a website stating this and showing Mr. White's picture.

Ruth Myers – Questioned whether the Polar Plunge that has been announced for February was required to provide insurance. Feels that since she has to for private functions at the Wrightsville Inn, shouldn't everyone. Mayor mentioned she thought this was for Special Olympics. Mrs. Dietz will look into further.

Sharon Amato – Stated Wrightsville is a big rumor mill and that there is a mole on Council as she told Mayor Lindeman, in confidence, that there had been a burglary at her home and evidently Mayor brought it up in executive session and someone on Council has since leaked the information. Questioned whether the Borough had \$60,000 to \$70,000 to pay for a more experienced Chief of Police? She said she would be willing to buy signs saying "We support Chief Pearson."

Elizabeth Groft – Wants this to be a better New Year.

Kim Lentz – Questioned that if money was to be collected for Voting-at-Large was that money going to be kept in escrow. She also questioned the time line for raising funds. Mrs. McDonald stated it would be about six months; from January to June. Mrs. Lentz wondered if the accountant would be tracking the money and returning if the project fell through. Mrs. McDonald stated yes. She also stated that through her investigating she finds that all other voting-at-large boroughs/townships only have one polling place but the newsletter states that all the polling places in the Borough would remain.

*Ohandy 2/2/09 (BHD)*  
Tom Otlandly – He mentioned that the police revenue was up, traffic was better and there is police presence. Mrs. McDonald asked if the police are seen at 4:00 a.m.

Crystal Bolton – Commenting on Mrs. McDonald's question, she stated that her husband sees the police at 4:00 a.m. She feels there are more pressing matters than voting-at-large. Having been a part of the Recreation Commission, she stated that fundraising is a daunting task and that they have been unable to raise \$6000.00 in six months and feels that if Mrs. McDonald goes door-to-door requesting money for voting-at-large she is competing against the Recreation Commission, the Fire Department and local churches.

Eric White – gave Wii Fit to the Senior Center from the Medicine Shop and a Wii crossword game as well as a monthly contribution.

Marty Peak – He feels \$6000.00 would be better used for the police department rather than voting-at-large. He feels that if you state in a public meeting when the police are on duty or off duty, you are inviting trouble. Per Mayor Lindeman, no one gets the schedule for the police except her. Mrs. McDonald stated that she feels if you don't inform the public you are lying to them.

Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the December minutes from both the regular meeting and the recessed meeting. Mr. Cressler seconded the motion. After discussion, the minutes were amended. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the aforementioned minutes and Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion. Mr. Habecker was opposed but the motion passed by majority vote.

STREETS – A Streets Department report was provided. Per Mrs. McDonald, signs were purchased and a couple more need to be purchased that read "500 feet road closed." This will cost approximately \$500 to \$600. The Authority purchasing the F350 will have to be discussed at the Authority meeting.

RECREATION – There was not a meeting last month. The appointing of a new member will be done next month. Mr. Sipes reported that \$837.50 was raised in the bonus card bingo. He reminded everyone that the Recreation Commission is still in need of a water heater and a refrigerator. Mrs. Young will see if Mr. Kirkessner is still able to provide this as previously mentioned.

PRESIDENT – Requested people step forward to form a 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. If interested, they can contact Bonnie Dietz. Someone mentioned that Claire Storm would know a lot about the Borough's history. Mrs. Young also questioned whether parking is allowed on the east side of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Mr. Habecker informed her that parking regulations/restrictions are in the ordinance book. If parking is prohibited, does it need to be posted and Brooke Say said it does. Reappointments needed to be made. Neil made a motion to reappoint C.S. Davidson as Engineer with a second by Mr. Groft. It was unanimous. Mr. Cressler made a motion to reappoint Stock & Leader as Solicitor and Mrs. McDonald seconded it. It was unanimous. Mr. Habecker made a motion to reappoint Mr. Brenner as Treasurer and Mr. Groft seconded it. It was unanimous. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to reappoint Mrs. Dietz as Secretary and Mr. Habecker seconded the motion. It was unanimous. Mrs. Young nominated Mr. Sipes as Vice-President. The motion was made by Mrs. Young and seconded by Mr. Cressler. The vote passed unanimously. The resolution appointing Mr. Sipes as Vice-President and the resolution appointing Mr. Cressler was signed. Discussion of the handbook was tabled until next meeting.

POLICE – Chief Pearson informed everyone that Officer Carpenter stopped an attempted robbery at Turkey Hill at 4:15 a.m. He was addressed with a noise complaint regarding tractor trailers running at Donsco. He stated the he had not received any complaints and that a noise ordinance would need to be in place. Mrs. McDonald stated that the Borough has such an ordinance and Brooke Say recommended reviewing the ordinance. Mr. Habecker questioned whether a weapon had been displayed and the Chief stated that a BB gun had. Mr. Habecker wondered if this was a federal offense and Chief stated it was not. John Cressler questioned the Chief about the truck sitting with a block under its tire on Water Street and the Chief stated that he was aware of this but that the gentleman who owns it had his leg removed and that he has moved into a home and he is having to work through a P.O.A. to get the issue resolved. *w/ expired tag & inspection* *al/sg BKD*

FIRE – Mr. Brenner informed Council that the fire department was trying to supply the Borough with receipts to show what the EMT money was spent on. Mr. Habecker stated that he thought more money had been budgeted and Mr. Brenner informed him that another check would be released. \$28,326 had been budgeted minus the 3% to the tax collector which will be close to where we're going to be.

TREASURER – Mr. Brenner stated that all expenses are recorded. Some may end up getting reclassified. Auditors will be looking the accounts over and will want Council to know that we over spent in different areas. *Auditors also wanted a public announcement that there are areas that are over spent* *al/sg BKD*

Everything can be explained. Projected revenues were \$285,000 during budget sessions but we ended with \$310,000 in cash. We began with \$294,000. Real Estate taxes are a little behind. People are waiting to pay. He mentioned that he met with York Area Tax Bureau and received 80% of the budgeted amount, which is better than the County average.

The income budgeted for 2008 was \$610,000 but it was \$698,000. We had budgeted for \$4,500 in Special Police Services but got back \$4,100.00.

Areas discussed regarding expenses were... Legal fees. Budgeted for \$10,000. This expense became \$26,000. Engineering fees look like they went up. Budgeted for \$10,000 and it became \$22,000 but the grant revenue, in effect, makes this within budget. The police were under budget as they were expecting expenses of \$277,359 but actually only spent \$228,437. The Borough, again, did not have to contribute to the pension plan. Public works was over. The budgeted amount was \$188,910 but they spent \$194,973. The issue there was street maintenance. Their numbers were basically in line but the lighting costs went up significantly. The Recreation Commission spent just under \$30,000. Their budget was for \$10,000. The Rec. pulled in \$31,000 to cover their expenses therefore the Borough only actually spent approximately \$3,800. The insurance figures were over. The budgeted amount was \$15,000 but \$35,000 was spent. As explained in the past, during the transition of the former secretary some insurance bills went unpaid. Also, Worker's Comp rates increased. The total budgeted expenses were \$640,000 but the actual amount spent was \$676,000. The \$36,000 in overages is covered by cash reserve and unanticipated revenues. Mr. Brenner gave "hats off" to the Rec. as they met all their obligations and increased their cash going into the coming year.

Mr. Brenner informed everyone that in one or more months he will be meeting with the auditors. He also stated that he had met with Smith Barney last week regarding the employee pensions and they would like to meet with the employees to review their accounts either in late January or early February. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Mr. Sipes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SOLICITOR – Brooke Say informed everyone that per Mr. Tilley, after his review of the Police Pension documents that were sent to him, he feels the plan was more than likely structured around the needs at the time and feels that the retirement age should be changed to 55 or 25 years of service. Mr. Sipes made a motion to approve the Police Pension Plan with the change in the retirement age from 50 to 55 or 25 years of service, whichever is later. Mrs. McDonald seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

HEALTH & SAFETY - Mr. Habecker informed everyone that the Federal Government requires an Emergency Management Plan and that without one in place, funds can be withheld during disasters such as flooding. He stated it was crunch time and that he met with Paul McCleary, Mayor of Hallam Borough who seems to be interested in creating an intermunicipal Emergency Management Coordinator position. Mr. Habecker stated that he had also talked to Jim Baugh, who, too, is interested in a co-coordinator. He thought that there might be interest in having an Eastern School District intermunicipal plan and mentioned, as he has in the past, that it could possibly be \$5000.00. Mrs. Young asked if this would be split with the three boroughs. Mr. Stern is currently paid but said they could discuss redesigning the plan for the entire region and then assessing the fee for the coordinator. This fee could be based on number of residents, square mileage, etc. It may not be an even 3-way split. Mayor Lindeman mentioned that Phil had been previously shared. Mr. Habecker stated that he realizes this may time but felt it would be good to start on something. He will go to work on it. Mr. Habecker made a motion to approve his dialoguing with surrounding municipalities in the interest of creating an intermunicipal Emergency Management Plan. Mr. Cressler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mrs. Young questioned whether Chad Livelsberger was still the assistant. Mr. Habecker informed her that he is the Emergency Management Coordinator but he feels his appointment was unfair and that he should possibly be relinquished of his duties and questioned the repercussions of not having an Emergency Management Coordinator.

It is time to renew the Code Administrators contract. Mr. Habecker wanted to review the fee schedule from 2008 and therefore the approval of this contract was tabled until the February meeting.

**MAYOR** – Mrs. Lindeman stated that the Royal Farms building was, in fact, deemed a dangerous building and needs to be demolished.

**AUTHORITY** - Water and sewer rates were increased and Mrs. Young wondered if this needed to be done by resolution. She was informed it did not. Mrs. Young also mentioned that there had been quite a few water main breaks and just wanted Council to be aware of that as she thinks it will be addressed at the Municipal Authority's next meeting. She stated that she had contacted the State regarding Hellam and Front Street.

**COMP. PLAN UPDATE** – Mr. Sipes informed everyone that they must meet with the other two engineering firms before they can make a decision. He stated that the LTAP grant must be applied for in early February so he was hoping to have these meetings done by Monday night and stated that the committee for this update was very enthusiastic. He stated that when they meet with the engineering firms regarding the Comp. Plan update, they are also giving a description of the river front and he invited Council to attend the meetings.

**MISCELLANEOUS** – Mrs. Dietz informed everyone that she had the completed Comcast agreements and they were ready to be signed. This is for Cable, Phone and Internet at the Streets Dept., Office and Police Dept. This will be a savings. Mr. Habecker made a motion to approve changing to Comcast for all three services. Mr. Sipes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Brenner mentioned that if it was being considered to collect donations regarding voting-at-large, he asked that no agreement be entered into without first consulting him. He also mentioned that when someone makes a donation there are no strings attached. Their donation is just that and he's very uncomfortable saying that if things fall through, their money would be returned. This money is a tax deduction. Mrs. McDonald stated that the money would not be collected at this time, just their names. Mr. Groft mentioned that Mrs. McDonald is out on her own. A resident questioned why it was not on a ballot and Mrs. Young said that it cannot be put on a ballot. The survey in the newsletter is a survey not a ballot.

**ENGINEER** – Mr. Klinedinst came late to the meeting and recommended approving going forward with the Wissler Agreement. Mr. Habecker made a motion to go forward with the Wissler Agreement. Mr. Sides seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council went into Executive Session at approximately 8:45 and reconvened at 9:02. Brooke Say stated that the Executive Session was regarding legal and personnel issues.

Mr. Sipes had questions about meeting with the other firms regarding the Comp. Plan. It was recommended that he email the ones that had already been considered stating that progress will be made and ask if they were to make a decision on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, would that give them enough time to apply by the deadline, which he believes is the 6<sup>th</sup> of February. He was also told to check deadlines before calling another meeting.

Mrs. Amato congratulated Mr. Sipes on becoming Vice-President and stated she expects to see a seating change at the next meeting.

Mr. Graft made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Habecker seconded the motion and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bonnie K. Dietz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bonnie K. Dietz  
Secretary