

President Abby Wertz called the November 3, 2014 meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Tony Wirebach, Bob Pierce, Rod Soliday, Bill Langjahr and Junior Council member, Grayson Ziegler. Mike Kocher was absent. Also attending the meeting were Solicitor Andrew George, Mayor Randall Gartner, Police Chief Bill Schlichter and Manager Lisa Heilman. Citizens and visitors attending the meeting were David Randler, Garry Degler, Bob Garmer, Terry & Karen Foltz and Michael Wagner of the Reading Eagle. On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting minutes of the October 6, 2014 Council meeting were approved as presented.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** – Terry Foltz, of 39 North Church Street, irately addressed Council on a letter he received from the Borough's Zoning Officer, at the direction of the Borough, regarding him running a business from his residence. He advised Council that he does not appreciate being harassed about his hobby that he does only with his own vehicles. He accused Council of overlooking others in the Borough doing the same, or worse, than him, and pointed out Mr. Degler as one of those people. He also accused the Police Department for disregarding his complaint about William Wealand running a business from his home on North Church Street and stormed out of the meeting. Upon his exit, the manager explained the situation, as it has unfolded, to Council, including his wife's observation that "he never wrote out an invoice....he just tells people to pay him what they think it's (his work) worth".

All other visitors were observing.

**MAYOR** – Mayor Gartner thanked everyone involved in the parade and advised Council of a couple of complaints/suggestions he got about the parade. Borough Manager advised Council that she has asked Trinity Lutheran Church to notify the Borough if/when they hold a parade wrap-up meeting so we can be included and pass on the suggestions/recommendations we've received. Mayor Gartner also reminded everyone that that Veterans' Walk will be held on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 9AM at the Wernersville Memorial on Stitzer Avenue.

**SOLICITOR** – Solicitor George advised Council that Borough Code prohibits the Borough from vacating Mountain Road without the consent of the current owner. However, he does feel we have the right to cease maintaining the road if the new owner refuses to remove the gate and allow the borough access to the end of the road.

**ENGINEER** – The Engineer's report included the preparation and submission of the annual MS4 report.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Next meeting, scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

**MANAGER** – No report.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Schlichter advised Council that 76 calls were answered in the Borough by the Police Department in October. He also advised Council that the new speed sign, purchased by the COG, is in use and giving the PD valuable data to use in the future. He also advised Council that he has plans to present new programs to the elderly in 2015.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES-** On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Langjahr and unanimously carried, the bills were ordered paid as presented, including those paid prior to the meeting to avoid penalties.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS-**

**Finance/Administration** – Ms. Wertz advised Council that the preliminary 2015 budget is complete and ready for advertising. The new budget includes a .25 mill increase, bringing the total millage to 4.65. Total budget is \$1,391,704. The millage increase is needed to keep the borough fiscally healthy while paying off the bridge load. We have been tapping into the bridge and general equipment fund the last year or two and we are seeing that we have less to carry over from year to year. The motion was made by Mr. Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Soliday and carried on a 5-1 vote, with Mr. Marshall voting no since the numbers we have received from the Police Commission for their 2015 budget are not solid. He does not want to have to have to re-advertise the budget if this preliminary budget needs to be changed for adoption.

**Fire Protection/Safety** – No report.

**Streets/Highways/Sewer** – Meeting minutes from the October meeting were included in the agenda packet.

**Parks & Recreation** – October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet. The renovations in the ball field pavilion worked out very nicely for the parade.

**Personnel:** The Performance Evaluation process is nearly complete. Performance Evaluations will be given in November.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Marshall** – No report.

**Wirebach** - Mr. Wirebach asked that all meeting minutes be sent out electronically to Council members prior to the next Council meeting so everyone is given plenty of time to study them before the next Council meeting. Mr. Wirebach discussed the inconvenience of closing Penn Avenue down for the parade on Sunday, especially for the residents living on the South side of Penn Avenue. The Borough will consider using the SwiftReach program if the same route is taken next year. This will allow the Borough to notify all affected residents within the borough of any road closures that may occur.

**Langjahr** – Mr. Langjahr presented Council with the bids received by the COG for Trash for the next three year cycle (with the option to extend another year or two). The bidders were given three options to bid. Six companies submitted bids. The COG decided to go with option 1 (low bidder provides new containers that they own). Kreitzer Sanitation was low bidder at \$1,388,690.55 for the three municipalities at 3 years. The other four bidders were: BFI Waste Service/Republic Services of Schuylkill Valley, \$1,453,140.00; Solid Waste Services/J.P. Mascaro, \$1,642,392.00; Eagle Disposal of PA, \$1,651,389.00; A.J. Blosenski, \$1,654,642.00; and Lebanon Farms Disposal, \$1,976,270. On a motion by Mr. Langjahr, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, Council approved the awarding of the bid to Kreitzer Sanitation.

**Soliday**- Mr. Soliday made the motion to allow Garry Degler to use the Borough truck to help collect wreaths at Ft. Indiantown Gap for Wreaths Across America. Mr. Langjahr seconded and Council unanimously approved.

**Pierce**- No report.

**Kocher**- Absent

**Wertz** - No report.

**Ziegler**- No report.

**Mayor Gartner:** Mayor Gartner advised everyone there will be a Burger & Steak Night and Maryoke at the Fire Company on November 21<sup>st</sup>. He also advised Council that he received a call in response to the letter he sent to the county commissioners regarding the increased 911 dispatch costs. Although the commissioner understood the Mayor's point about municipalities without fire/police departments not paying their fair share, he didn't indicate he saw the matter changing.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Ms. Wertz advised Council that a meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at the CW High School regarding the Route 422 Betterment project. Meeting starts at 7 and all are invited to attend.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – We are still awaiting word from Wernersville on the proposed Police Charter Agreement changes. Their meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Manager was directed to contact Harding-Yost Insurance Agency to determine if they have received the 2015 numbers for the Workers Comp Insurance. The Borough plans to start charging neighboring municipalities that share in the fire services provided by the Pioneer Hose Company but are awaiting final numbers before determining how to bill them.

### **COMMUNICATIONS-**

- WRJA Treasurer's Report
- Monthly police report and Commission meeting minutes.
- Code enforcement report.
- Current balance sheets
- 2014 Community shredding event statistics

On a motion by Mr. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Marshall and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Attest:

Lisa Heilman  
Manager/Treasurer  
Borough of Robesonia