

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

BOROUGH OF ROBESONIA

December 16, 2014

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President Abby Wertz called the December 16, 2014 workshop meeting to order at 7:35 PM with the pledge to the flag. Council Members present were Harvey Marshall, Mike Kocher, Rod Soliday and Bob Pierce. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Randy Gartner and Manager Lisa Heilman. Tony Wirebach and Bill Langjahr were absent. Karen Feick from the Reading Eagle was the only visitor.

**VISITORS & CITIZENS** - No comment

**MANAGER** – Ms. Heilman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**NEW BUSINESS** – On a motion by Mr. Pierce, second by Mr. Kocher, and unanimous approval by Council the 2015 Budget was passed. The budget includes a .25 mill increase. Total budget for 2015 is \$1,391,704.00

**OLD BUSINESS** – The proposed changes to the Intermunicipal Police Charter Agreement were voted down by Wernersville’s Borough Council unanimously. Since no communication has been received from Wernersville indicating any interest in further discussion of the proposed changes, Mayor Gartner sought a motion to withdraw from the Western Berks Regional Police Commission/Department/Charter. Mr. Marshall made the motion to withdraw, with the hopes that the Commission/Charter/Department can still be salvaged with open dialog between Robesonia and Wernersville. Mr. Soliday seconded the motion. There was much debate and discussion among the Council, Mayor and Manager on the subject. Future cost containment of the police department expenses, transparency of the commission, costs of withdrawing from the commission and lack of communication/cooperation/compromise were all discussed. Everyone agreed the service provided by the police department, itself, was not an issue. The Manager was directed to write a letter to Wernersville and the Commission to notify them of our intent. Mr. Kocher suggested including the Borough’s willingness to sit down and discuss our concerns with Wernersville in the letter. Ms. Heilman reminded Mr. Kocher that our desire to discuss the issues was communicated in our letter sent in April, but to no avail. However, it will be included in this letter as well.

On a motion by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Soliday and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Attest:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Heilman  
Borough Manager