

**CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER: President Williams called the meeting of the Clarks Green Council to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Rinaldi conducted roll call. The following were present: Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Toms, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Barrasse, Mr. Williams and Mayor Thorburn.

ABSENT: Solicitor Weinschenk and Joanne Culbertson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: President Barrasse entertained the motion to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2017 Council meeting. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Williams. Mr. Toms, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Williams and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor.

VISITORS: Marnie Palmer, 280 East Grove St., Clarks Summit Police Chief Chris Yarns and Officer Kevin Yetkowskas, Peter Giermanski, 100 Squirrel Run, Gerald Hetman, Lackawanna County Outreach, Darlene Sholcosky, Clarks Green Zoning Officer, Liz Baumeister, Abington Journal, Clarks Summit's Fire Company represented by Fire Chief Ryan Miller, and President Mike Lukus.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Clarks Summit Police Chief Chris Yarns reviewed the monthly police report and briefly discussed the situation that involved what appeared to be a flop house within the Borough. Mayor Thorburn welcomed Clarks Summit's Fire Chief Ryan Miller and President Mike Lukas to the meeting. Chief Miller informed Council he is now the Second Assistant Chief and Mr. Jay Miller is the current Fire Chief then introduced Officer Yetkowskas as the First Assistant Chief at the Clarks Summit Fire Company. Chief Miller briefly reviewed some 2017 reports stating they had a total of 105 EMS calls along with 13 fire calls and gave a brief report on the weekend dual dispatching calls.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Marnie Palmer, 280 East Grove St., reported she is experiencing problems with PennDot concerning her sidewalks stating she cleaned her sidewalks and PennDot then plows snow back on them within minutes and this is definitely a burden. Ms. Palmer stated she has been requesting for years either a three-way stop or traffic light needs to be placed at the corner of Fairview, it is truly a safety concern noting during the weekend keeps getting worse. Ms. Palmer told Council she does not understand why Mr. Williams was assigned overseeing the DPW staff since he was not available during dayshift and feels the DPW employees might take advantage of his absence without Council knowing. Ms. Palmer stated since she had been on Council, she is aware what takes place and would like Council to reconsider the decision on DPW Chair position. Mr. Williams stated he had talked with Dave Kohinsky and they are in agreement that he would be contacted by email or phone if issues and questions arrive since the logistics of him being at the borough building is difficult. Ms. Palmer stated she understands the communication end but feels the DPW staff has at times taken advantage of the Borough. Mayor Thorburn asked Mr. Williams about the Public Works Committee since they can possibly assist overseeing the DPW staff in Mr. Williams' absence. Mr. Williams stated the committee has not been determined and if anyone is interested in volunteering please let him know.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Mr. Hetman distributed flyers on the upcoming events sponsored by Penn State Extension throughout the County. Mr. Hetman briefly reported on the strength training class stating Penn State Extension, in collaboration with The University of Scranton, will be offering training and nutrition classes along Food Safety Certification, Northeast Vegetable Meeting and the Commercial Tree Fruit Growers Meeting.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Nothing to report in Solicitor Weinschenk's absence.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL: Mr. Hughes reported on the checking account balances with comparisons to last month and last year. The Treasurer's report was presented by Mr. Hughes and filed for audit. Current fund balances are as follows:

Capital Fund Money Market	\$	99,387.62
General Fund Checking		292,708.13
General Fund Money Market		35,268.74
Sewer Fund Checking		199,046.81
Sewer Fund Money Market		34,982.94
Sewer – FNCB CD		50,000.00
Sewer – Wayne Bank CD		50,203.70
State Funds Checking		<u>12,125.34</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$	773,723.28

With no questions from Council Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Ms. Igoe to accept the Treasurer's report and ratify the payment of the bills. Mr. Toms, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. Mr. Hughes then presented the Budget vs. Actual report comparing balances on the report to amounts from last year. Mr. Hughes told Council the Wage Tax collections is up about \$35,000 from the prior year. Mr. Hughes reported the collection of the Sewer Use Charges was \$23,000 higher this year and this was not due to an increase to sewer charges but just successful in collecting the money owed. Mr. Hughes told Council Total Income was \$1,117,524 and the projected amount was \$1,049,871 making revenue higher by \$68,000 and stated it was mostly due to the increase of wage tax and sewer usage collections. Mr. Hughes reported in the year of 2017 we operated in a surplus of \$143,884 versus the prior year we had a loss of \$8,817 primarily the result of prepaying the NBT loan for \$86,000 which reduced our interest expense. Mr. Hughes told Council all in all this is a financial report that should make Council and residents very pleased. Mr. Hughes asked Council for the authority to renew the Certificate of Deposit with Wayne Bank a rate of one (1) % for ten (10) months. Ms. Igoe motioned in granting Mr. Hughes authorization in renewing the Certificate of Deposit at Wayne Bank for ten (10) months at a rate of one (1) %, seconded by Mr. Toms. Mr. Toms, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Williams, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Rinaldi and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. Mr. Hughes reviewed the sewer delinquencies telling Council we have collected approximated \$9,128 and two (2) properties on lien had paid their delinquencies in full and presently we now have three (3) properties on lien. Mr. Hughes noted certified letters and regular letters will be sent to property owners by the end of the month stating they have until February 28, 2018 to pay their sewer delinquencies warning them of possible sewer liens against their property. Mr. Hughes reported to Council our auditors from Murphy & Dougherty will start the Borough's audit on Friday, January 19, 2018.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: Mr. Toms stated nothing much is happening while reporting the holiday decorations have been stored away for next year. Ms. Igoe told Council they need to be proactive since the Ice Festival will be held in February and the Borough should participate. Mr. Rinaldi told Council that the Borough for two (2) years participated with the Summit Frame Works shop by splitting the cost of the ice figurine but it was the decision of Council to stop participating. Mayor Thorburn stated he felt Clarks Green's location was too far from downtown Clarks Summit to attract the public to visit an ice sculpture in the Borough.

PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Williams reported on a water main break in the vicinity of Short Hill Drive and the Borough is working with the water company to make sure the road is fixed. Mr. Williams stated the DPW crew is busy with snow removal. Mr. Rinaldi told Council the Borough is down one (1) truck which has been out of service for a week and half and only the remaining two (2) trucks were used this weekend noting David Kohinsky was not plowing roads on the weekend because of the truck situation. President Barrasse stated he had Dave Kohinsky provide an inventory list of vehicles along with equipment indicating the replacement of the 2003 truck was needed. Council had a brief discussion on the large dump truck being serviced since the truck cannot pass inspection and Mr.

Toms volunteered to research if a replacement cab is available. Mayor Thorburn suggested to Council it should look into doing preventative maintenance on the various equipment the Borough owns and Mr. Williams stated he will organize it with the DPW.

REFUSE & RECYCLING: Ms. Igoe reported she had contacted former Council member Ms. D'Oro in regards to the refuse/recycling projects. President Barrasse told Ms. Igoe she will be answering complaints concerning County Waste and will need to contact them.

HEALTH & SAFETY: Mr. Rinaldi told Council he was in communications with Police Chief Yarns concerning the drug arrest located on Spring Street. Mr. Rinaldi reported Ms. Luben from L&V Engineering will be attending the February work session and will present Council with a presentation concerning the work that will take place with the Green Light Go Grant.

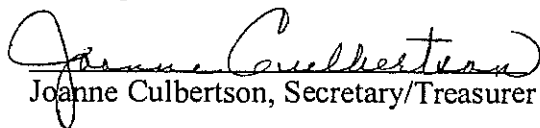
ARWA: Mr. Rinaldi reported the final PennVest payment was received by the Authority December 20, 2017 in the amount of \$486,798.50 and the line of credit opened at the beginning of the plant construction was paid off in the amount of \$ 484,800.30. Mr. Rinaldi told Council ARWA finally received a bill from PPL for three months in the amount of \$33,635 which the amount being lower with the new plant equipment. Mr. Rinaldi stated the DEP is requiring additional WHET testing which previously showed the number of organisms released in the discharged water decreased after entering the stream. Mr. Rinaldi reported the Authority Board will be retiring \$1.3 million in debt from the Plant renovation. Mr. Rinaldi distributed information about Clarks Green's sewer lines which indicated infiltration. Mr. Rinaldi stated flow metering is a requirement within the CAP Plan.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Hughes reflected on the previous Council Meeting in regard to Ms. King stating she had contacted Mr. Risse and informed him incorrectly on a few comments she claimed he made and he continues to stand by his statements. Mr. Hughes noted the cost of the 2015 audit performed at AAJRB was \$7300 and asked on what basis will an AAJRB audit cost \$10,000. Mr. Hughes commented further on AAJRB as a 501C3 organization, stating it is a charitable organization. Individuals making contributions to the 501C3 organization can itemized these contributions as tax deductible expenses. He feels since individuals are making these contributions the AARJB should want to insure to these individuals the financial statements reflect fairly the material aspects of the organization to which they are donating. President Barrasse told Council he contacted Mr. Risse this past week requesting a meeting and hopes it will be scheduled sometime in February stating everyone on Council loves the park.

NEW BUSINESS: President Barrasse asked for a motion to appoint Patty Lawler to the vacant position on Clarks Green Planning Commission. Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Mr. Toms. Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Toms, Ms. Igoe and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. President Barrasse will contact the Planning Commission to find out when they will like to schedule the reorganization meeting since presently they have no Chairperson. Mr. Rinaldi talked to the Council about the previous Council meeting discussion along with the information provided by Solicitor Weinschenk in accepting the resignation of Council member, Mrs. Earley noting the various timelines. Mr. Rinaldi motioned to accept the resignation of Lynne Earley, seconded by Mr. Toms. Mr. Williams, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Hughes, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Toms and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. Mr. Barrasse motioned to advertise the rescheduled Council Meeting from February 21, 2018 to February 15, 2018 at 7 P.M., seconded Mr. Rinaldi. Mr. Toms, Mr. Rinaldi, Mr. Williams, Ms. Igoe, Mr. Hughes and Mr. Barrasse voted in favor. President Barrasse presented to Council a proposal from BCM concerning a sewer grant application which needs to be submitted February 28, 2018 which the current engineering firm offered free assistance in preparing. Mr. Barrasse stated the grant will be up to \$300,000. Mr. Rinaldi stated Council voted to request proposals for engineering services at the December 2017 Council Meeting. If Council then accepted the free services, the other engineering firms might think the proposal process was tainted if the BCM submitted a proposal based upon the Borough receiving free services. Mr. Rinaldi stated if they were not willing to offer us a proposal for future engineering services in writing he would vote yes

for the free assistance in applying for the grant. Mr. Hughes stated he would like to get Solicitor Weinschenk's opinion and Mr. Toms agreed with Mr. Rinaldi something does not feel right about this situation. Councilman Hughes suggested the Borough should to ask the current engineers what would be the fee for preparing the grant application. Mr. Rinaldi stated he also does not feel this is a new grant and wanted to know the name of the grant program which the letter failed to identify. Mr. Rinaldi inquired Council, after all these years, why is the firm now proposing providing free service now, since the Borough has been involved in sewer rehabilitation with them for the last eight (8) years. President Barrasse stated he does not want to miss the grant deadline and he thinks this is imperative.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Hughes motioned, seconded by Ms. Igoe to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 P.M. All in attendance voted in favor.


Joanne Culbertson, Secretary/Treasurer

CLARKS GREEN BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

January 17, 2018

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. ROLL CALL.... Mr. Weinschenk & Ms. Culbertson will be absent
3. MOTION TO ACCEPT MINUTES
4. MAYOR'S REPORT, POLICE REPORT, FIRE & AMBULANCE
Clarks Summit Police Chief Yarns
Clarks Summit Fire Co. New President Mike Lucas, New Fire Chief Jay Miller,
EMS Corey Colarossi
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
Visitors should approach the podium and state their name and address. Comments are limited to 5 minutes
6. GERARD HETMAN, LACKAWANNA COUNTY DEPT. of COMMUNITY RELATIONS
Attendance confirmed.
7. SOLICITOR'S REPORT – SOLICITOR WEINSCHENK – will be absent
8. TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILL APPROVAL – Mr. Hughes
9. FINANCE COMMITTEE – Mr. Hughes
Wayne Bank CD Renewal (02-05-18); Sewer Delinquencies
10. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Mr. Toms
11. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Mr. Williams
12. PERSONNEL – Mr. Williams
13. REFUSE & RECYCLING – Ms. Igoe
14. HEALTH & SAFETY – Mr. Rinaldi
15. ABINGTON REGIONAL WASTEWATER AUTHORITY REPORT – Mr. Rinaldi
Borough Sewers/ Cap Discussion
16. OLD BUSINESS
17. NEW BUSINESS
Filling of Vacancy on Borough Council
Appointment to Planning Commission
BCM Engineering for Grant
Review repair/ Replacement of Trucks
18. ADJOURNMENT

NOTE TO VISITORS: Please sign the attendance sheet and indicate if you wish to observe the meeting or to address Council, stating the agenda topic on which you would like to comment. Thank you.