

**MUNCY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Minutes

January 3, 2012 7pm

The Muncy Borough Council met in regular session with the following members present: President Elaine McAleer, Vice President Galen Betzer, Brandy Kift, Linda Stein, Richard Baker, Dana Bertin and Jon Ort. Junior Council Member Hannah Cole was absent. Also attending were Solicitor Wilfred Knecht and Borough Secretary Mary Lynné Rager.

Guests: Chief Richard Sutton, Muncy Borough Police
Jeff Sholtis, Treasurer Muncy Borough
Patrick Weber, Muncy Borough Public Works Director
Kim Rager
Christine Dannemann, Resident
Jamie Brelsford, MAVFC #39

President McAleer called the meeting to order at 7:04pm in the Muncy School District Board Room located in the Margaret Waldron Building. Invocation was provided by President McAleer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes from November 1, 8, 17, 27, 2011 meetings

Mr. Betzer made the **motion to accept** the minutes from **November 1, 2011** Council Meeting. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Ort. **Motion carried.** All voted in favor.

Mr. Ort made the **motion to accept** the minutes from **November 8, 2011** Council Meeting. The motion was **seconded** by Mrs. Kift. **Motion carried.** All voted in favor with Mr. Betzer abstaining due to absence.

Mr. Ort made the **motion to accept** the minutes from **November 17, 2011** Council Meeting. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Baker. **Motion carried.** All voted in favor with Mr. Betzer abstaining due to absence.

Mr. Betzer made the **motion to accept** the minutes from **November 27, 2011** Council Meeting. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Ort. **Motion carried.** All voted in favor.

Minutes from December 6 and 15, 2011 meetings

Mr. Baker made the **motion to accept** the minutes from **December 6, 2011** Council Meeting. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Ort. **Motion carried.** All voted in favor.

Mrs. Kift made the **motion to accept** the minutes from **December 15, 2011** Council Meeting. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Betzer. **Motion carried.** All voted in favor.

Swearing in of New Council

Mayor Edward Dannemann **swore in** the new Muncy council elect:

Elaine McAleer Matilda Noviello
Linda Stein

Call to Order

The Honorable Edward Dannemann, Mayor, called the Reorganization Meeting to order at 7:16pm. Secretary Rager performed role call:

Galen Betzer Linda Stein Matilda (Tillie) Noviello
Dana Bertin Elaine McAleer Richard (Buzz) Baker

Mayor Dannemann welcomed the new council.

Nominations and Elections

Mr. Betzer motioned for the close of nominations for Muncy Borough Council President and Mrs. McAleer seconded.

Richard Baker nominated for Muncy Borough **Council President**. Roll call:

Galen Betzer Yes Dana Bertin Yes
Linda Stein Yes Elaine McAleer Yes
Matilda Noviello Yes Richard Baker Abstained

Mrs. McAleer motioned for the close of nominations for Muncy Borough Council Vice President and Ms Noviello seconded.

Galen Betzer nominated for Muncy Borough **Council Vice President**. Roll call:

Galen Betzer Abstained Dana Bertin Yes
Linda Stein Yes Elaine McAleer Yes
Matilda Noviello Yes Richard Baker Yes

Mr. Betzer motioned for the close of nominations for Muncy Borough Council Pro Tem and Richard Baker seconded.

Elaine McAleer nominated as **Pro tem**. Roll call:

Galen Betzer Yes Dana Bertin Yes
Linda Stein Yes Elaine McAleer Abstained
Matilda Noviello Yes Richard Baker Yes

Mrs. McAleer motioned to close nominations with Mr. Bertin seconded. At 7:21pm Mayor Dannemann presented the gavel to President Richard Baker.

Mrs. McAleer made the **motion to appoint Jonathan Ort** to replace deceased council elect Dan Palmetter whose term would have ended December 31, 2015. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Bertin **Motion carried**. All voted in favor.

Vacancy Board Chair - Tabled in order to contact possible interested resident.

Other Appointments - Tabled for president to review.

Public Comments - None

Treasurer's Report

A. Check Disbursement Reports: Mr. Sholtis presented the following checks for approval:

General Fund Account -

2 EFT's and Checks # 2215 to 2259 were disbursed for December 8 to December 28, 2011 totaling \$ 63,730.01.

Motion to approve GENERAL Fund disbursements 2 EFT's and Checks # 2215-2259 by Mr. Bertin and seconded by Mr. Ort Motion passed with all voting in favor.

Water Revenue Account -

2 EFT's and Checks # 2273 to 2299 were disbursed for December 7 to December 28, 2011 totaling \$ 120,700.59.

Motion to approve WATER Fund disbursements 2 EFT's and Checks # 2273 to 2299 by Mrs. McAleer and seconded by Mr. Ort. Motion passed with all voting in favor.

Liquid Fuels-

Check # 108 was disbursed for December 15, 2011 totaling \$ 258.89.

Motion to approve Liquid Fuels Fund disbursement Check # 108 by Mr. Ort and **seconded** by Mrs. McAleer. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor.

Mr. Sholtis noted he moved approximately \$142,000 from the Water Fund to General Fund. This was for funds owed to the General Fund from Water Fund.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report in its entirety by Mr. Ort and **seconded** by Ms Stein. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor.

Old Business

1. Zoning Officer- Council approved Codes Inspections as Zoning Officer. Currently Codes Inspections is already engaged in an agreement with the borough to enforce building codes. Council agreed that the two positions go hand-in-hand and would be easier for those seeking permits to go to one entity as well. This action is expected to result in a savings to the borough on Zoning Officer fees.
- 2.

Motion to approve Codes Inspections, Inc. as the Muncy Borough Zoning Officer by Mr. Ort and **seconded** by Ms Noviello. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor.

Mr. Betzer made a motion for permits to be at no charge to borough residents who need repairs due to a natural disaster. Motion did not pass but was tabled until the next agenda.

New Business

1. 10% Employee Health Insurance Deduction- Mrs. McAleer suggested that, with the increase of health insurance and the employees not receiving a 2012 raise, to give the employees a break in the increased health insurance contribution. Council agreed to keep the borough employee's health insurance contribution at 10% stating that we all have to experience the rise in costs.

Correspondence:

1. Lycoming/Sullivan Boroughs Association Meeting-January 18, 2012 at 6pm. Those interested in attending were encouraged to contact the office before January 12, 2012.

Borough Reports

- A. Solicitor – Solicitor Knecht requested an executive session at the end of the meeting.
- B. Police Chief – As submitted. Chief Sutton noted the increase in truck tickets compared to previous years. Also this coming Thursday there is a hearing with Judge McCoy regarding vehicles considered a nuisance.
- C. Fire Chief – As submitted. Jamie Brelsford, Muncy Area Volunteer Fire Company, gave the fire report. He stated that in 2011 they had 368 fire calls and 453 ambulance calls which totaled in 821 incidents with only having to “scratch” one call. Council was told that the fire company has elected their 2012 officers which are the same as it was for 2011. The fire company did receive their grant money which was for new pumps. They liquidated their old pumps and engine 139 which they put in funds for future apparatus purchases. Currently they have applied for another grant that will be used for debt reduction, replacement of breathing apparatuses and equipment supplies.
- D. Zoning Officer –As submitted.
- E. Codes Inspections-As submitted.
- F. Tax Collector – No report.
- G. Health Officer – No report.
- H. Public Works Director – As submitted. Mr. Weber noted that the light for the maintenance shed should be looked into again with perhaps considering solar lighting. The Water

Department changed lab services in order to save on costs. Mr. Weber to finalize paving list for 2012 recommendations.

I. Commission Reports –No reports.

Committee Reports:

A. Water/Sewer Committee – Reduction of number of board members from seven to five. This is being done in anticipation of the West Branch Regional Authority’s take over of the Muncy sewer facilities, leaving the water system still to the MBMA.

Ms Stein made a **motion** to **approve Ordinance #517 amendment to the Articles of Incorporation reducing the Muncy Borough Municipal Authority Board from seven to five members** with Mr. Ort making the **second**. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor.

B. Streets – No report.

C. Finance – Council has been working diligently on the \$5,000 PA Wilds grant that involves the Veteran’s Park on South Main Street. Muncy Bank & Trust has donated \$2,500 towards the required cash match portion of the grant. That leaves a \$2,500 balance that still needs to be raised. Anyone interested in donating to this veteran-honoring project is encouraged to call the borough office.

Mrs. McAleer made a **motion** to **approve temporary transfer of \$2500 from the Building Fund to the Grant Fund for the Veterans Park until it can be paid back to the Building Fund** with Mr. Ort making the **second**. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor.

D. Personnel – No report.

E. Equipment, Property, and Grounds –

F. Community Relations – Mr. Ort gave council his final design draft for Veterans Park Grant. Ms Stein announced that the Recreation Committee will meet the second Wednesday of January. She stated that the day of dedication to the Veterans Park could ideally be on Veteran’s Day in November 2012. Mr. Baker spoke with the American Legion and received their permission to attend their meeting to explain the Veterans Park Project.

G. Borough Ordinance – Mrs. Rager reported that she has been in contact with General Codes and had provided them with copies of borough ordinances. They will be developing a new contract soon.

Comments from the Public

None

Mayor

Mayor Dannemann offered closing advisory and suggestions to the new borough council:

- With the proposed 400-500 State Police troopers being laid off, it will have an impact on the borough. We will have to rely more on our people (borough police) than ever before.
- He noted that the Water Fund still owes the General Fund \$142,000. Both funds have been in financial straits for some time. He suggested that council develop a new committee to look into bringing more revenue in to the Water Fund perhaps by selling water to the gas companies.
- “Borough employee moral is in the tank.” The mayor suggested that council meet with the employees to try and help the situation.
- With the evident mold and radon problems at the borough office, the mayor noted that trying to fixing the problem would be throwing good money after bad. He suggested that the building be razed as it is not a good place for the employees.
- Regarding council committees: The mayor stated that if you can’t accomplish your commitment just say so and pass it on to someone who can.
- A financial mistake does not stay in the past. We are still struggling. When council votes and nothing gets done, it costs the borough in money and savings.
- Mayor Dannemann suggested that council change solicitors every so often just like the borough changes auditors.

Individual Council Members

Mrs. McAleer thanked Ms Noviello for “stepping up to the plate” in regards to her running in the election, joining council, and approaching immediate tasks with her sleeves rolled up.

Executive Session

An Executive Session was called by President Baker at 8:52pm to discuss legal and personnel matters; not to reconvene.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mrs. McAleer made a **motion to adjourn** the meeting at 8:52pm with Mr. Ort making the **second**. Motion **passed** with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lynné Rager
Borough Secretary