

MINUTES OF THE MUNCY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2017

The Muncy Borough Council met for its regular meeting at the Muncy Borough Building with the following members present: President Richard Baker, Vice President Matilda Noviello, Dana Bertin, Ed Feigles, Elaine McAleer, Karen Richards and Linda Stein. Mayor Jon Ort was also present.

Staff Present: Borough Manager, Bill Ramsey
Chief of Police, James Dorman

Guests: Numerous Residents (See attached sign-in sheet)

President Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

CORRECTION TO MINUTES: Ann Baker (not Butters) is President of the Muncy Business and Professional Association. E. Feigles motioned to approve the minutes as corrected. M. Noviello seconded and motion was approved 7-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Muncy Police Department Bargaining Unit Contract. Contract with revisions was distributed and ready for signatures. No action required as previously approved.
2. Short-Term Disability Insurance for Police Officer. There continue to be questions about duplicate insurance coverage and costs for short-term disability insurance on police officers. President Baker appointed a committee to review all insurance needs for the borough. This committee is E. McAleer, K. Richards, D. Bertin and B. Ramsey and they will work with Borough Treasurer, J. Sholtis. As pertains to police officers, Chief of Police Dorman will join the committee.
3. Muncy Police Chief Letter of Agreement. Letter of Agreement was distributed. M. Noviello motioned to approve. E. McAleer seconded and motion approved 7-0.
4. Police Department Staffing. Chief Dorman stated that advertisements for openings will appear in the Sun-Gazette on February 18 and 21.
5. 2017 Schedule of Fees. B. Ramsey reported that the staff have gathered information from surrounding municipalities and are in the process of compiling a spreadsheet that will be distributed at the March 7th meeting.
6. Muncy Resiliency Project and Opera House. An appraisal of the Opera House, contracted and paid by Lycoming County was scheduled for February 16th. Penn State students showed their preliminary designs through an on-line video conference which was viewed by B. Ramsey and Bill Poulton at the borough building as well as staff at the Lycoming County Department of Planning and Development and Jeff Allen at the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.
7. Economic Development Authority. Discussion was postponed until the next meeting so that the Solicitor could participate.
8. Small Cell Towers and Antenna in Public Right of Way. Council reviewed a proposal submitted by the Cohen Law Group to prepare new wireless facilities regulations. The costs of these services will be billed at an hourly rate of \$225.00 per hour, not to exceed \$4,250.00. There currently are no regulations which makes the borough vulnerable to placement of these towers and antennas in undesirable locations, shoddy, unsafe

construction and an inability to collect any fees/rents from the placement of these facilities by for-profit companies. M. Noviello motioned to approve this contract and direct that President Baker sign it. E. McAleer seconded and motioned was approved 7-0. As this will ultimately be incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance, K. Richards requested that B. Ramsey involve the Zoning Advisory Team in this process.

9. Resolution supporting the Muncy Historical Society's "Community Heart and Soul" Project. This is a multi-municipality, multi-year planning process that is designed to empower people to shape the future of their communities while improving local decision-making, create a shared sense of belonging and ultimately strengthen the social, cultural and economic vibrancy of the community. K. Richards motioned to prepare a Resolution supporting this effort. M. Noviello seconded and motion was approved 7-0.
10. River Town Designation/Public Participation Committee. B. Ramsey explained the problems that he has encountered with staff changes at Susquehanna Greenways. He is scheduled to meet with Jerry Walls and hopes to move this project forward. It is seen as important to other efforts within the borough, specifically the Resiliency Project.
11. Auditors for 2016. B. Ramsey clarified that Baker-Tilly now owns S.F. and Company which had a three-year contract to conduct the borough annual audits. They will honor this contract and the audit will begin on February 20. It was noted that per Borough Code, Council is required to appoint an auditor annually prior to December 31st of each year.
12. Water and Washington Streets sidewalks. There is considerable cracking of some the sidewalks that were installed as a part of the upgrade to the Water and Washington Streets intersection. Specifically, the sidewalks that must accommodate trucks with excessive weight have cracked. Both the engineers and contractors have stated that they followed the PennDOT guidelines. B. Ramsey will get quotes for the Washington Street "apron" at Turkey Hill. Once the quote is received, further actions will be determined. R. Baker suggested that we could consider submitting a claim in small claims court.

NEW BUSINESS - None to conduct.

BOROUGH REPORTS

B. Ramsey reported that appointments to the Zoning Hearing Board are five-year terms so that the Resolution appointing E.J. Rymysza to a three-year term needs to be amended to reflect the term ending date as January, 2022. There needs further clarification if a Resolution was approved to appoint Mike Coppes to a three-year term as an Alternate to the Board.

E. McAleer and K. Richards reported on the meeting of the Lycoming-Sullivan County Association of Boroughs. Ed Troxel and Ron Grutza from the PA State Association of Boroughs were the guest speakers. They discussed two enabling acts that have been passed by the PA State Legislature that impact boroughs. Act 172 is designed to help volunteer fire companies to recruit and maintain volunteers and allows municipalities to offer tax incentives to do so. Guidelines are currently being developed. The Finance Committee can meet with the Fire Chief to review options for Muncy Borough.

Also, a bill was approved to address blighted properties. Counties can assess a \$15.00 fee to every deed transfer to create a fund specifically to assist municipalities addressing blighted properties. Based on information gathered by Lycoming County Commissioners, this would generate approximately \$140,000 per year and Williamsport and Jersey Shore have identified the largest number of blighted properties. Muncy Borough was not included in the survey and it was suggested that if the borough had any interest in securing any funds, it needs to be proactive. The County Commissioners have not decided on taking this action.

PSAB also is strongly recommending that boroughs consider legislation on Small Cell Towers and Medical Marijuana. K. Richards has a model ordinance on Medical Marijuana that will be forwarded to the Solicitor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recreation Committee: E. McAleer is completing a grant application to the Community (Margaret Waldron) Foundation for funding assistance for the renovation of the Green Street Park. The grant application deadline is March 1. The Recreation Committee will become the Recreation/Open Spaces Committee and will coordinate any council-approved changes to Borough-owned Open Spaces.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Baker announced that there will be an Executive Session following the meeting but no action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, D. Bertin motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 7:57pm. E. McAleer seconded and motion was approved 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen A. Richards
Assistant Secretary