

**MUNCY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
November 7, 2023**

The meeting of the Muncy Borough Council was called to order in the Borough Hall 6:00 P.M. by President B Scott. The Pledge of Allegiance followed and a moment of silence for our armed forces and first responders was led by President B Scott.

*Council Members present:* Scott Delany, Bill Scott, Linda Stein, Steve Shank, Richard Baker.

*Solicitors:* Scott Williams, Zach DuGan

*Absent:* Thad Martin, Brooke Bishop

*Staff Present:* Treasurer J Sholtis, Police J Dorman, J Lyons, K Hakes.

*Guests:* Wayne Wolfgang, Lisa Higgins, Dick Sutton, Lew Johnson, Kevin Rupert, Jesse Smith, Lisa Lyons, Tara Ashby, Pharron Banghart, Mike McAleer, Diane Schneck, Rebecca Bertin, Isabella Bridy.

**Guests/ Public Participation:** Dick Sutton started a conversation about the grants and the Penn Strategies report enclosed in the packet. Mr. Sutton indicated that the report indicated that the grant for a new borough building has been denied. He also indicated that the boro is in need of other things rather than sidewalks on west Water street. B Scott indicated that he attended a library board meeting and the land swap is off the table. Diane Schneck from the library spoke up and said the library is very much still interested in making a deal. S Delany also attended the meeting and confirmed that was the libraries position. T Ashby asked how did west Water get selected for new walks when walks all over town need replaced.

**Minutes October 3 2023** – S Shank motioned to accept. L Stein 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

**Treasurer Reports:** J Sholtis presented cash disbursements and bank balances for approval. L Stein motioned to approve the reports. R Baker said yea and 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

**Old Business:**

**Borough Manager position** – B Scott reported that he feels three people is ridiculous in the office and that the borough does not need a borough manager. S Delany feels that things were handled poorly at the Oct meeting. He then read from the personnel policies the procedures for dismissal. The policies were not followed. He also said that a executive session should have been held. B Scott added that boro employees are at will and can be terminated at any time and that a executive session was not motioned. Solicitor S Williams outlined the reason for executive sessions and that no one asked him if a executive session should have been held.

**New Business:**

**Budget draft 2024 -** L Stein opened a discussion about the 2024 budget. J Sholtis presented the 2023 projection and 2024 proposed budget. Following Jeffs presentation L Stein motioned to advertise the 2024 proposed budget including a .25 mil tax increase. Jeff indicated that there has not been a tax increase since 2018. S Delany attended one of the finance committee meetings and felt that the meeting was very productive. Jeff, Scott and Linda recommended that the borough look into other pension plans to try to save money. Mayor Ort does not want the boro to use our savings to balance the budget. The budget will come in front of council in December for adoption. S Delany 2<sup>nd</sup> Lindas motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Office staff interim pay adjustment - S Shank presented the concept of giving Katie and Jeff an interim pay adjustment due to assuming additional duties and not having a manager and them assuming additional duties. Steve indicated that with a pay adjustment the boro is still saving funds due to not paying a manager. S Shank motioned to give Katie a \$8 pay increase and Jeff a \$4 increase retro active to October 4<sup>th</sup>. The increase would remain in effect until the new council in January decides the boroughs staffing compliment. R Baker 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Police resignation – J Dorman presented a letter from Ken Flewelling stating that he is resigning as a part time police officer. S Delany motioned to accept the resignation. S Shank 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Streets resignation – J Sholtis presented a letter from John Gramling. John is resigning as a part time streets worker. He has worked for the borough since 2012. S Delany motioned to accept the resignation. S Shank 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Maintenance shed roof – J Sholtis indicated that Chris says we need a new roof for the maintenance shed. Another discussion occurred about boro buildings and grounds. Council does not wish to put any monies into the shed. The building committee will get active and make a plan.

PennDOT multimodal grant Resolution 2023-11 - B Scott reviewed the grant re the Carpenter st bridge retaining wall and rehabilitation. The borough costs would be approximately \$30,000. B Scott motioned to accept the resolution. S Shank 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Pa DCED LSA grant Resolution 2023-12 - B Scott presented a resolution which originally was for sidewalks on west Water street.. The grant is through DCED and has no local match. Council agreed that the borough sidewalk ordinance needs rewritten. Another lengthy discussion of buildings and grounds ensued. The land swap with the library is still on the table. The Penn Strategies report indicated that the grant for a boro building was declined. Borough residents felt that South Market street is in need of new sidewalks and council agreed. S Williams will write up a new resolution for walks and curbs on South Market. B Scott motioned to approve the agreement. S Shank 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried 5 – 0.

Hire of part time police officer – J Dorman says that Xavier Becker would like to work part time for the boro police. James felt that we should have a contract with new officers to reimburse the boro for their equipment if they leave within a year. L Stein motioned to hire Xavier with a contract in place. S Shank 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Radio Grant – J Dorman indicated that the radios are in for the PCCD grant. The vendor needs paid before we can get reimbursement. It was suggested to use the Emergency account. Treasure J Sholtis suggested that a new bank account or box is created in order to run all grant monies thru. Due to the unknowns and different grant time frames running grants activity through the General account will be a budgeting and bookkeeping nightmare. S Shank motioned to take \$56,000 out of the Emergency account to pay for the radios. When grant funds are received they will be placed back in the Emergency account. R Baker 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

K Rupert reported that the Fire company open house is Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6:00.

B Scott brought up that the Historical Society art show is Nov 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

IPMC J Lyons – reported on various properties in the borough. More certified letters will be going out this week. Add 46 Green st to Joes list.

**Guests/ Public Participation:** Borough resident Tara Ashby questioned why at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting that B Bishop abstained from the boro manager dismissal vote. Solicitor S Williams was not sure what she said. He indicated that is not his decision if there is a conflict of interest and that I judge can decide that. Tara also mentioned that the disrespect that L Stein gets at the council meetings is disgusting. P Banghart spoke to the fact that solicitor allowed or overlooked the vote. She is hearing that the boro does not need a manager but the office staff is getting a wage adjustment due to picking up manger duties. S Delany feels a boro manager is needed. Office admin staff K Hakes was asked if she can cover manager duties efficiently without going nuts. She answered 'No'. L Stein feels that we need a manager especially since the borough has ongoing grants. B Scott said that Penn Stratagies does all of the administration of grants. He then corrected himself and said they do most of the administration. A discussion was held about committees and if meetings should be advertised. The sun-gazette ad for the finance meetings cost \$65. P Banghart also brought up about Codes and flood plain management and if the rules are being followed. The blue flood signs are gone. The borough never was approached about putting them up but the borough voted to take them down. R Sutton bought up why the Penn Stratagies report says a new borough building is declined. There is no clear answer. B Scott will contact them. W Wolfgang brought up about traffic lights and their timing. J Dorman recommended to go to Penndot. Another discussion was held about the maintenance shed. S Delany said that its great the many boro residents are attending council meetings. R Baker said long time borough employee Dave Alexander passed away.

**Executive Session:** none

**Correspondence/Announcements:**

Borough reports:

*Police Department* – October report attached.

*Fire Department* – Sept and October report attached.

*MBMA* – no report

*Streets Department* – October report attached.

*Tax Reports* – October report attached.

*WBRA* – September minutes attached.

*Library* – no report

*IPMC* – October report attached.

R Baker motioned to adjourn. S Shank 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sholtis

Borough Treasurer / Secretary