

Vandling Borough Council Minutes  
December 20, 2021

Council President Fran Pantzar called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council members present included Bill Boyle, John Carachilo, Bill Matos, John Mayers, and Fran Pantzar. Also present were Mayor Joseph Brady, Treasurer Jennifer Slick, Attorney Jeff Levine, and Secretary Nancy Perri.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the previous meeting was approved on a motion by Mr. Boyle, second by Mr. Mayers All were in favor.

**Correspondence:**

One piece of correspondence was received from the Superintendent of the Forest City School District. The agenda had already been posted and it could not be added to the agenda. However, all members of Council and Mayor Brady were provided a copy for their information.

**Persons to be heard:** Several individuals present will address Council later in the meeting regarding police coverage.

**Treasurer Reports**

***Treasurer Report of Financial Status: (final for December)***

	<b>Dec 1, 21</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
COVID Grant	2,144.08
<b>General Fund</b>	
HNB - 0113	289,410.64
HNB - 4601	20,018.91
<b>Total General Fund</b>	309,429.55
<b>Liquid Fuels Fund</b>	
HNB - 4613	34,793.38
<b>Total Liquid Fuels Fund</b>	34,793.38
<b>Refuse Fund</b>	
HNB - 5401	38,209.97
<b>Total Refuse Fund</b>	38,209.97
<b>CD Balance (.25% Interest Renews 7/24/22)</b>	27,861.80
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	412,438.78
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
Principal Balance on Loan	103,953.26
(Payment Due 1/15/22)	

A motion was made by Mr. Mayers, second by Mr. Boyle to approve the Treasurer's report, Motion carried with all in favor.

**Treasurer Report of Receipts: (final for December)**

Revenue ~ December 2021

Date	Name	Account	Amount
12/02/2021	Hab-Eit	310.20 · Wage Taxes	68.47
12/08/2021	Commonwealth Financing Authority	354.07 · Intergovernmental Revenue	60,775.00
12/17/2021	Hab-Eit	310.20 · Wage Taxes	650.78
12/21/2021	Lack. Co. Recorder of Deeds	310.10 · Real Estate Transfers	2,653.23
12/21/2021	Lackawanna Co. Treasurer	319.00 · Delinquent Taxes	90.63
12/21/2021	Lackawanna Co. Treasurer	364.00 · Garbage Fees	189.10
12/21/2021	Tumblin Tots	342.00 · Rent	1,050.00
12/21/2021	Commonwealth of PA	330.00 · Fines	146.59
12/21/2021	Mary Ann Risboskin	301.00 · Real Estate Taxes	3,366.50
12/21/2021	Mary Ann Risboskin	364.00 · Garbage Fees	2,940.00
12/24/2021	Hab-Eit	310.20 · Wage Taxes	527.58
12/31/2021	HNB 0113	341.00 · Interest Earnings	53.68
12/31/2021	HNB 4613	341.00 · Interest Earnings	2.93

72,514.49

Mr. Matos, second by Mr. Mayers motioned to approve the revenue report. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Treasurer Report of Expenses: (final for December)**

Expenses - December 2021			
Date	Name	Account	Amount
12/20/2021	County Waste	427.45 · Contract Sanitation Service	6,417.16
12/20/2021	PP&L	434.36 · Street Lighting	949.55
12/20/2021	Herlands & Levine	404.10 · Legal Wages & Salary	732.50
12/20/2021	Forest City Borough	410.45 · Police	2,100.00
12/20/2021	Forest City Borough	430.25 · Road Material	195.00
12/20/2021	Prince Excavating	429.45 · San. Sewer Contract Service	1,383.00
12/20/2021	PAWC	448.36 · Water Hydrants	331.61
12/20/2021	NEP Telephone	409.30 · Bldgs. Utilities	83.48
12/20/2021	LRBSA	409.30 · Bldgs. Utilities	61.80
12/20/2021	Modern Gas	409.30 · Bldgs. Utilities	246.36
12/20/2021	PP&L	409.30 · Bldgs. Utilities	171.87
12/20/2021	The Scranton Times	404.20 · Legal Advertisement	64.15
12/20/2021	Regal Heating & Plumbing	429.45 · San. Sewer Contract Service	950.00
12/20/2021	Regal Heating & Plumbing	409.20 · Bldgs./Grounds Supplies & Expense	152.60
12/20/2021	Stafursky Paving	429.45 · San. Sewer Contract Service	70,787.78
12/20/2021	Jennifer Slick	402.10 · Treasurer's Commissions	400.00
12/20/2021	Jennifer Slick	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(91.12)
12/20/2021	Nancy Ann Perri	405.10 · Secretary's Wages	400.00
12/20/2021	Nancy Ann Perri	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(97.12)
12/20/2021	Bill Matos	400.10 · Legislative Wages	225.00
12/20/2021	Bill Matos	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(51.12)
12/20/2021	John Mayers	400.10 · Legislative Wages	225.00
12/20/2021	John Mayers	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(51.12)
12/20/2021	Francis Pantzar	400.10 · Legislative Wages	225.00
12/20/2021	Francis Pantzar	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(51.12)
12/20/2021	John Carachilo	400.10 · Legislative Wages	225.00

12/20/2021	John Carachilo	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(51.12)
12/20/2021	Thomas Collins, Sr.	430.10 · Street Maintenance Wages	187.00
12/20/2021	Thomas Collins, Sr.	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(42.59)
12/20/2021	Mary Ann Risboskin	403.10 · Tax Collectors Commissions	168.33
12/20/2021	Mary Ann Risboskin	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(38.25)
12/20/2021	Thomas Prince	429.66 · Sewer Expense	500.00
12/20/2021	Thomas Prince	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(113.90)
12/20/2021	Ronald Richards	413.2 · Protective Services Supplies	100.00
12/20/2021	Ronald Richards	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(22.78)
12/20/2021	Joseph Brady	401.10 · Executive Wages	225.00
12/20/2021	Joseph Brady	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(51.12)
12/20/2021	John Lavin	413.2 · Protective Services Supplies	357.38
12/20/2021	John Lavin	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(79.74)
12/20/2021	James Van Leuven	430.10 · Street Maintenance Wages	170.00
12/20/2021	James Van Leuven	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(38.73)
12/20/2021	James Van Leuven	430.20 · Truck Gas & Supplies	190.08
12/20/2021	William Boyle	400.10 · Legislative Wages	225.00
12/20/2021	William Boyle	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(51.12)
12/20/2021	Jay Lynch	429.66 · Sewer Expense	200.00
12/20/2021	Jay Lynch	488.00 · Employees Withholding	(45.56)
12/20/2021	PSAB UC Plan	6560 · Payroll Expenses	171.87
12/21/2021	IRS	6560 · Payroll Expenses	1,006.07
12/21/2021	PA Dept. of Revenue	6560 · Payroll Expenses	232.73
12/21/2021	Hab-Eit	6560 · Payroll Expenses	93.81

89,277.62

It was noted that the final payment to Stafursky is included in the list. Mr. Carachilo questioned the increase in the police bill. It was due to an addition related to the cost of gas. Mr. Matos, second by Mr. Mayers motioned to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Mayor Report:** Before Mayor Brady spoke, Council President Fran Pantzar stated on behalf of Council that it was a pleasure working with him and that he has been one of the more active and involved Mayors. He will be missed.

Mayor Brady thanked everyone for their support and noted that while serving his only intention was to do better by Borough residents. He wished everyone a Happy and Blessed Merry Christmas and New Year.

**Solicitor Report:** Attorney Levine had nothing to report at this time.

**Committee Reports:**

John Mayers noted that we need to do additional advertising for the street department. Mr. Farrell has withdrawn his application. The Borough needs back up for Tom Collins and Tom Prince is not interested. Mr. Mayers has also checked with previous applicants and they are no longer interested. Everyone was in agreement to advertise.

Mr. Mayers has requested cost estimates from four contractors for the storm drain consolidation work. A specification for an easement between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets has been sent to KBA for an opinion.

**Unfinished Business**

In regard to police coverage in the Borough, Mr. Carachilo noted that at the first meeting with Forest City, they offered a contract with a \$1,000/month cost increase, a three year contract for \$36,000. The Mayor and Mr. Carachilo then looked for other options and received a proposal from the City of Carbondale which was approved in November.

It appears as though there was another meeting held with Forest City officials and another proposed contract prepared.

Mayor Brady reiterated that his only goal was to find the most affordable coverage. It was again noted by both Mayor Brady and Mr. Pantzar that Council moved forward and approved a contract with Carbondale at the November meeting.

Forest City Assistant Chief John Foley addressed Council stating that they did not want to lose the Borough and we were willing to negotiate to \$2,000/month and offer a four year contract with no additional gas fees. He stated that they have increased the number of part-time officers to provide more coverage.

Betsy Turner, Wayne County 911 dispatcher spoke and stated all calls from "785" are directed to Wayne County and would have to be transferred to Lackawanna County. Mayor Brady replied that this is currently the process for calls from Richmondale and there have not been any concerns reported. Mr. Matos further noted that many residents have their phone service through Adams Cable which currently goes to Lackawanna 911.

Mr. Carachilo asked Carbondale Mayor Justin Taylor who was present if there were any problems with responses to Richmondale. Mayor Taylor replied that he was not aware of any and stated that many calls are non-emergency and can be directed to the non-emergency number to request an officer.

Mayor Brady questioned why the Forest City School District Superintendent got involved by sending a letter to the Borough officials. Asst. Chief Foley replied that while he was at the school he brought the matter to her attention and she wanted to send a letter of support.

Mr. Pantzar stated that the shock of the initial proposed increase led to the search for other options as the Borough may have had to raise taxes to maintain coverage with Forest City.

Mr. Mayers stated that he was under the impression that Council wanted to provide Forest City the opportunity to discuss the matter further and that is why he met with Mr. Cost which led to a new proposal. Mr. Pantzar stated that personally he hates to see the relationship end but Council already acted on an agreement with Carbondale.

Mr. Mayers replied that he feels the response time from Carbondale will be an issue and that we have not had any complaints about the FCPD. He stated that there is a process in place with them and he is more comfortable staying with them. Mr. Mayers made a motion to rescind the contract with Carbondale City and to pursue the agreement with Forest City. Motion died for lack of a second and the motion from last month will stand.

Ms. Turner stated that a letter will have to be send to Wayne County 911 alerting them to the change.

Mr. Boyle asked who is responsible for negotiating contracts for the Borough as it seems several people were negotiating with Forest City. Mr. Pantzar replied that it is the Mayor and one council member to conduct the negotiation.

### **New Business**

The 2022 budget was presented. Ms. Slick stated that we can use the ARA Grant for water, sewer, road projects, etc. and questioned if we needed to make any adjustments. Mr. Mayers replied that the numbers will not change and those funds will be used for budgeted projects. Ms. Slick also stated that she does not have a problem leaving the grant in the general fund as it will be used rather quickly. Mr. Mayers

requested a report of all revenue and expenses for the Peterlin project. Ms. Slick was able to provide a summary of expenses.

Mr. Mayers made a motion to adopt the budget as proposed. Mr. Boyle seconded the motion which carried with all in favor.

The Resolution setting the 2022 tax rate was approved on a motion by Mr. Boyle, second by Mr. Mayers. Motion carried with all in favor.

Council will meet on January 3<sup>rd</sup> for reorganization and will continue to meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 7 PM.

**Public Comment:**

Council welcomed Mayor-elect Prince who commended Mayor Brady and Council for all their work for the Borough and stated that he is looking forward to working with everyone.

Mayor Taylor noted that he was present in case there needed to be any discussion of the police contract and stated that he is looking forward to working with the Borough.

Mr. Mayers handed Mr. Pantzar his resignation effective January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM on a motion by Mr. Matos, second by Mr. Pantzar. Borough Secretary Nancy Perri prepared the minutes.

Nancy Perri  
Signature

January 2, 2022  
Date