

**BOROUGH OF PATTERSON HEIGHTS  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
November 15, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Starn at 7:00 pm.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Other Council members present: Vice-President Jim Turnbull, Bryan Landman, Connie Klein, Fran Levinger, Sue Pokego, and Tim Weisenburger.

Also present were Mayor Phyllis Aluseo, Attorney John Salopek (sitting in for Solicitor Frank Paganie), Police Chief John Deluca, Zoning Board Member Ruthanne Bentley, Auditor Martha Pietsch, Auditor Sandra O'Shea, Vacancy Board Chair Caren Turnbull, and Secretary/Treasurer Jack Doyle.

It was announced that the meeting was being recorded by one of the visitors.

MINUTES: Bryan Landman moved that the minutes from October be approved as presented. Tim Weisenburger seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by voice vote.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Deluca presented the police report for October, listing seven incidents and daily parking details. When asked about a fight which occurred on the playground on October 31, the Chief noted that the police were not informed of the incident until the next day, and it would appear on the November report. The Council decided to discuss the situation, and the Chief told them that charges had been filed against two juveniles who were not from Patterson Heights. It was asked if the two could be prevented from entering Patterson Heights, but Mr. Salopek thought that while they could not be banned from the Borough, they could be banned from the playground specifically. Bryan Landman made a motion, seconded by Tim Weisenburger, that the Secretary/Treasurer draft a letter asking the Chief to request the Court add to the disposition that the two individuals not be permitted on the Patterson Heights playground. The motion carried, and the Chief noted that, if the two were found on the playground, they would receive summary citations.

Chief Deluca presented the City of Beaver Falls' bid to provide police services, noting the resources available in manpower and equipment, plus the fact that they do not have mutual aid agreements with other municipalities.

FIRE REPORT: Bill Starn presented the Fire Chief's report. During October the VFD responded to six calls, with one being in Patterson Heights, for a natural gas odor investigation. Santa is still scheduled to arrive on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, between 6 and 8pm. The Ladies' Auxiliary will provide refreshments.

VISITORS: (1) Jake Barsottini, of 624 4<sup>th</sup> Street, asked that the Council put personal feelings aside when deciding on the new police contract, and do what's in the best interest of the Borough, remembering that the police must be able to provide for the safety of the residents. He further said that Beaver Falls is doing a great job, is not overextended, and does not have to rely on mutual aid agreements. (2) Frank Policaro, President and Police Commissioner of

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Patterson Township, spoke in support of the Patterson Township Police Department, and asked that the Council put personalities aside, and do what's in the best interest of the Borough. (3) Patterson Township Police Chief Dave Stanislawski said that he has been a police officer for 20 years, the last 1-1/2 as Chief. Since becoming Police Chief he has emphasized professionalism and respect, and cited the success of the Lunch Buddy Program at Patterson Elementary. He told the Council that the Township has eight officers and three squad cars. Availability of resources varies by day and shift. (4) Margie Eggenberger, of 508 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, said she is pleased with the service provided by the Beaver Falls Police, and that they are very visible throughout the Borough. She also mentioned the street light being out at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. At that point, other residents mentioned lights being out at 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue (pole #184VZ16), and 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Secretary/Treasurer will get the pole numbers required, and notify Duquesne Light. (5) Xander Wilkinson, of 504 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, spoke on behalf of Tori Aquino, of 404 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, who was concerned that Patterson Township does not always have police cars available, while Beaver Falls does. Speaking for himself, Xander commended the Beaver Falls Police for having two cars in the Borough on Halloween night, and handing out candy. He also mentioned the poor condition of the stop sign at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. (6) Patrick Korol, of 603 5<sup>th</sup> Street, said that he rarely sees the Beaver Falls Police, but always saw the Patterson Township Police when they had the contract. (7) Ted Searfoss, of 90 Darlington Road, said that the lights in the playground seemed dim, and offered to replace the burned out light by the parking lot at his expense. He also offered to trim the tree where it was blocking the light. (8) Ron Tyger, of 620 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, urged the Council to take finances into account when deciding on the new police contract.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Sue Pokego moved that the Council go into executive session. Fran Levinger seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The Council met in executive session from 7:24 until 7:52.

The Council reconvened, and Tim Weisenburger moved that the Council accept the police contract proposed by Patterson Township. Jim Turnbull seconded. Voting was done by roll call, with Landman, Weisenburger, Klein, and Turnbull voting in the affirmative. Starn, Levinger, and Pokego opposed the motion, and the motion carried 4-3. Mr. Salopek asked the Secretary/Treasurer to direct Mr. Paganie to prepare a police service contract between Patterson Heights and Patterson Township pursuant to the Request for Proposal submitted by Patterson Township, and ask Patterson Township to take any necessary legislative action to have the contract approved by their council.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (1) Revised ordinance fees should be ready for review by the December meeting. (2) Two motions were presented by Tim Weisenburger, and seconded by Jim Turnbull. The first was a motion to direct the Solicitor to advertise the 2018 preliminary budget in the amount of \$302,537, pursuant to applicable law. The second motion directed the Solicitor to advertise the Borough's intention to enact an Ordinance fixing the tax rate for the

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2018 calendar year at a rate of 0.24 mills, the same rate as used for 2017. Both motions carried. (3) Discussed during the executive session.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: Bill Starn presented the report for Dawna Pella.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Starn read a complaint by Sue Yorns, of 901 5th Street, about the drain from her sump pump being filled with tar. The reason for the tar was that the drain was improperly emptying onto, and causing damage to, 9th Avenue. The drain has been redirected, and the resident should talk to her landlord regarding damages.

TAX COLLECTOR: The Secretary/Treasurer reported Real Estate Tax receipts of \$1,132 for October.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE: Bryan Landman elaborated on the tar in the drain discussed previously, noting that it was not known that the drain was from a sump pump, and emphasizing the erosion of the roadway caused by the water. He also reported that the door on the back of the smaller fire station was rotted, and badly needed to be replaced. He was concerned about the cost of heating the building, as it has large holes in the door and frame. It was decided that Jim, Bill, and Bryan would assess the door, and make a recommendation to the Fire Department.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Jim Turnbull presented drawings of the proposed repair to the concrete driveway in front of the Borough Building. He estimated a total cost of \$2,500, with Blank Concrete & Supply sending 11 yards of concrete, but only billing for 8. The work is expected to start on November 21. Costs of repair can be paid out of the Liquid Fuels account.

STREETS AND SEWERS: Bill Starn discussed options for buying and replacing stop signs, and it was decided that Bryan would start by replacing 10.

RECREATION: Nothing new to report.

RECYCLING AND REFUSE: Sue Pokego had nothing new to report, but encouraged residents to keep recycling.

BUDGET AND FINANCE: Auditor Martha Pietsch presented her report on an examination of the records of the outgoing Tax Collector, Sue Phillip. She indicated no evidence of inappropriate activity or malfeasance.

RENTAL PROPERTY: Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS: The new police contract was discussed previously.

OLD BUSINESS: (1) We were finally able to contact the IRS, and they are preparing the EIN verification letter we requested. (2) The Beaver County Transit Authority is facing their own

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budget crunch, and is unlikely to add any routes on Darlington Road. (3) Jim Turnbull was given the fee schedule for MDIA, and will evaluate their inspection service versus that offered by a rival company. (4) Mark Bibby, of 617 9th Avenue has agreed to be our Zoning Officer. (5) The budget and tax levy were discussed earlier.

**OFFICER REPORTS:**

Mayor - Nothing to report.

COG - Nothing to report.

Emergency Management Coordinator - Nothing to report.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements.

**FISCAL AND CONTRACTUAL:** Tim Weisenburger moved that \$5,000 be transferred from the Earned Income account to the General Account immediately, and that the bills be paid as presented. Bryan Landman seconded, and the Council approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Bryan Landman moved that the meeting be adjourned, Fran Levinger seconded, and the motion to adjourn carried.

The next meeting will be held December 20, 2017.

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**SOLICITOR'S REPORT ON GENERAL MATTERS**

(1)      ORDINANCE FEES

Jack continues to compile information in this matter.

(2)      2018 BUDGET AND TAX ORDINANCE

Borough Council will discuss the 2018 budget, as well as the tax levy for the 2018 year.

Both the budget and tax levy will be advertised appropriately after the meeting and presented for Council's consideration at its December meeting.

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A motion should be made for the budget as follows: "Motion to direct the solicitor to advertise the 2018 preliminary budget in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ pursuant to applicable law."

A second motion should be made for the tax levy as follows: "Motion to direct the solicitor to advertise the Borough's intention to enact an Ordinance fixing the tax rate for the 2018 calendar year at a rate of \_\_\_\_\_."

(3) POLICE CONTRACT

Beaver Falls and Patterson Township were the only two (2) entities that submitted proposals for police protection services.

This matter will be further discussed at the meeting.