**New Buffalo Borough Meeting Minutes**

**August 10th, 2015**

**Call to Order**

President Dan Balthaser called the meeting of the New Buffalo Borough Council to order at: 7:00 p.m. on August 10th, 2015, in the basement of the New Buffalo United Methodist Church.

**Roll Call**

Present were council members: Dan Balthaser, Kim Balthaser, Karen Ersoz and Michelle Shutt.

The following persons were also present: Janice Crouse, Carol Holler, Fred Matter, Pat Keilhofer, Myrtle Winters, Dale Peterson, John Kittka, Tom Kendall, Brian Reifsnyder, Ralph Rudy, John, Hefinfinger, Linda Hefinfinger, John Johnson, Sally Lesher, Adam Pavusik and Barry Schlosman.

**Reading of last Month’s Minutes**

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Karen Ersoz, the July 2015 minutes were approved with corrections. All in favor, none opposed.

**Comments from Visitors**

James Huggins – Concerned about the sewer rate going up and questioned why it went up to $100. He also commented about the sewer plant being a labor intensive system.

Ralph Rudy – Commented on his view that raising the rates is illegal. He also stated that he thinks the system is a failure.

Linda Heffinfinger – Commented on how they, the borough residents, did not want this sewer plant in the first place.

Dan Balthaser – Explained that the cost went up to $100.00 per edu because of the cost of running the sewer plant warrants that. If costs increase, then the rates may have to increase as well.

Carol Holler – Wanted to know why the vote to increase the rates did not occur until the July meeting. Dan explained that the notice for the increase was published in the newspaper, advertised on cable TV, and it was displayed on our website for two weeks. After the announcement was published, the official vote was conducted.

Carol also questioned about the potholes on Mill Street. They will be filled in the near future.

Ralph Rudy – Refused to pay the new rates and will continue to pay the $43.00 rate. Dan responded that collection proceedings will continue for those who do not pay. He, Mr. Rudy, also suggested that we hire a lawyer to rectify the situation with the plant.

Fred Motter – Suggested that we file a lawsuit against the original engineering company (Sweetwater) that said $43.00 per edu will be enough to cover the costs of the plant. He also pointed out that there are subsidies and grants available for the use of solar street lighting.

Myrtle Winters – She was very upset that she had to accept a rate of $43.00 in the first place, and now she has to pay $100.00 per edu. She wants us to do away with the sewer plant altogether.

Dale Peterson – He states that normal increases in sewer rates are between 3% and 5%, our increase is 35%.

John Heffinfinger - Confirmed that it is becoming increasingly difficult to pay the new sewer rate.

Karen Ersoz- We cannot shut it down, because of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

Dale Peterson – Wanted to know if we raised the rent on the rental property and the storage units by 35% as well. The answer is no, we did not.

Ralph Rudy – Wanted to know if Jeff Woods, who does our lawn mowing and snow plowing, is bonded; and does he have the proper insurance as a sub-contractor?

Myrtle Winters – Complained about the plowing and the ice left behind on the roads last year. She fell on the ice and was very upset about it. She also commented on the playground and how it has become a hangout for drug addicts. She maintains that it is becoming destroyed and that she has found needles there.

**Correspondence**

Certificate of Liability Insurance

DEP Wastewater system 2015 Available Operator Report

International League Of Cities Annual Membership

Transfer of Residency from Max Naylor to Robert Derendinger

J.P. Harris Delinquent tax report

BIU Report – Cory Engle for Roof Mount Solar PV

Direct Energy – Credit due to the decrease in Network Integration Transmission Service

**Borough Treasurer’s Report**

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Karen Ersoz, the July 2015 Borough Treasurer Report was approved as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

**Sewer Treasurer’s Report**

Upon motion of Karen Ersoz, seconded by Kim Balthaser, the July 2015 Sewer Treasurer Report was approved as presented. All in favor, none opposed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Sewage/Sewage Authority Report**

Adam reports that it was a good month at the plant. There has not been any mention from DEP concerning the violation that occurred, indicating that the coliform has been eliminated from the system. The upcoming month will include sledge pumping by Walters Environmental and Train #1 will be rebuilt.

**Sewer Solicitor – Dennis Shatto**

Dennis suggested that we develop a policy on how to handle the sewer bills for properties that are being remodeled. It is in response to a request by George Lowe to stop billing his new property while it is being remodeled.

**PCCOG - Dan Balthaser**

Dan will attend the September meeting.

**Beautification Committee**

Nothing to report.

**Street Committee – Kim Balthaser**

Potholes on Mill Street need to be filled. Lowe’s has Cold Patch for $600.00 per ton plus $65.00 for delivery. Barry is to look into using the debit card to make the purchase. The borough’s tax exempt certificate for Lowe’s, is under Dale Peterson’s phone number. Also, Jeff Woods needs a gallon of weed and grass killer for alongside the road and along the fencing.

**Refuse Coordinator – Karen Ersoz**

Nothing to report.

**Playground**

It was discussed that the signs need to be replaced at the playground. Also because of vandalism, it was suggested that we sell the playground and the borough building or put up dummy cameras to curb the destruction of the playground

**Ordinance Violations**

Ordinance #01-2011 – Tabled to the spring (new construction, revised set back boundaries, etc.).

**Rental**

Nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Borough Bills**

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Karen Ersoz, all in favor, none opposed, the August Borough bill list was approved for payment.

**Sewer Bills**

Upon motion of Karen Ersoz, seconded by Kim Balthaser, all in favor, none opposed, the August Sewer bill list was approved for payment

**GOOD of the ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dan thanked everyone for coming to our meeting and expressing their concerns.

On Thursday August 20th, the Perry County Area Office of Aging will be conducting a session on the services they offer. The meeting is between 6 and 7 pm at the fire house and it is free.

Currently, there is one open slot on the borough council. Come election time, there will be a second council seat opening up, with the possibility of a third seat opening up as well.

Barry is to look into using the debit card for purchasing Cold Patch.

Barry is to keep an eye out for the Fireman’s Relief check.

**ADJOURN**

Upon motion of Michelle Shutt, seconded by Kim Balthaser, all in favor, none opposed, council adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barry Schlosman

Secretary/Treasurer