

**Marietta Borough Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held February 11, 2014**  
**113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA**

President deVitory with Council member Sargen, Foreman, Clements, Renninger, Roberts, Kramer and Mayor Vegso present called the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Marietta Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the pledge of allegiance.

On a motion by Council member Roberts with a second by Council member Kramer, the minutes of the January 14, 2014 Council meeting were approved as presented.

President deVitory opened the public comment session of Borough Council.

**PUBLIC SESSION**

Mark Harman, Engineer with ARRO, spoke on the Adoption of the Countywide Act 167 Stormwater Management Model Ordinance. Ordinance submitted several months ago. Mark was here to address any comments or questions. If there are no questions or comments then it will go to the Solicitor for his review. Mark will be at next month's meeting to review and then make recommendations to move forward. Any changes that the Borough would make would be stricter but not less strict than the counties ordinance. This ordinance needs to be passed and in place by May.

Charles Shireman, Sr. – 345 East Market Street – Charles was reading a paper for the flood project where the Mayor would like to hire a project manager for the Borough. We went through this before and the Borough cannot afford a Borough Manager.

Mayor Vegso commented that this would be a project manager just for this project, and that it is something that the Borough may want to consider.

Jay Beaston – 20 South Mulberry Street – Concern about the last power outage that they were not notified. They also wanted to bring to the Borough's attention that some sidewalks were not being shoveled.

Mayor Vegso commented that there was not a Borough emergency declared. But James Sargen, Sharon Renninger, Allen Clements, Steve Bailey, Deputy Captain Ebersole, himself went around and put flyers on the doors where the homes had power outages letting them know that the Pioneer Fire Company would be open as a warming station and to bring their bedding and people would be instructed to where they would be spending the night. Captain Glenn Orr cooked breakfast the following morning for people.

Rich Kushner – 573 Essex Street – Years ago the Borough held bicycle races in the Borough and he would like to see this event brought back into the Borough.

President deVitory responded that we would like to have this event return and asked that they invite them to the next council meeting.

Terri Minnick – 20 South Perry Street – Spoke with Jim Sargen about parking meters and she spoke with some of the business owners downtown about having the Borough waive a parking ticket for their customers that come into their store to shop and have a receipt. She would also like the Borough to take into consideration giving delivery drivers a permit so that they don't have to slug several meters.

President deVitory stated that James Sargen is collecting the information and ideas and will let everyone know what the Borough comes up with. The Borough is not ready to make a decision on this.

Dennis Traub – 4 East Hazel – Paying sewer and trash for a property that is not fit to live in. He would like the property to be abated from paying the sewer and trash.

Council member Roberts stated that we already discussed this and the Borough does not abate properties from paying the sewer and trash unless the property is torn down. It does not give the owner of the property any incentive to fix it up or sell the property. So they will not abate the property from paying the sewer and trash.

Glenn Mazis – 264 West Front Street – Concerned with the danger of oil cars that are traveling on the railroad through small towns.

President deVity stated that he shares his concern and that he has met with Norfolk Southern and he is working with Norfolk Southern on other things but he would mention this to them.

President deVity announced public comment session of Borough Council was closed.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL/FINANCE –President David deVity**

On a motion by Council member Roberts with a second from Council member Kramer, the General Fund Breakdown dated 2/11/2014 was unanimously approved as presented.

Resolution 2014-01, Disposition of Borough Records, needed to be corrected. There was a typo on the Financial Condition. It stated 2010 and should have been 2009. President deVity asked for a motion to accept the Amended Resolution. On a motion by Council member Clements with a second motion by Council member Roberts the Amended Disposition of Records was approved.

#### **STREETS & HIGHWAYS – Council member Allen Clements**

Council member Clements gave some updates. His third day on the job he received a call about a sinkhole on Wasp Street. The engineer was called in and it looks like that it was caused by stormwater runoff, nothing to worry about underground. The size on top of the street was the size of a stormwater drain, but underground a small car would fit in there. They filled it with concrete and covered with stone.

It was brought to Clements attention that Lumber Avenue and Hazel Avenue needs some work done. He has been up to take pictures of them and will be looking into having these streets put on the list to have work done to them. He will be checking into the funds available and look into Grants that may be available.

The intersection on Clay and Bank that was brought up at the last meeting does have the correct painted curbing for parking in this area. He asked that the Mayor ask the police to make sure the residents are not parking within the yellow curb.

Linda Ross brought a draining issue on Fairview Avenue to his attention. Clements ask that she keep an eye on it and let him know.

Council member Clements came up with a Residential Survey for the residents on Fairview Avenue to get their feedback for future road projects. Council member Clements made a motion to have Borough Council accept this survey to send out to the residents of Fairview Avenue, second motion by Council member Renninger to accept the survey.

#### **BUILDINGS & SPECIAL PROJECTS – Council member Eric Kramer**

Nothing at this time.

#### **PARKS & RECREATION – Council member Steve Foremen**

Council member Foremen stated that there are a lot of trees down in the park. He is checking into renting some equipment to take care of these trees.

Council member Foremen made a motion to have the Borough open a vacant lot to allow homeowners

to have a place to take their down limbs. Council member Roberts ask that he get more information from the Borough's road master. We would need to only allow this to happen over a short period of time, example would be four (4) to six (6) weeks. Council member Sargen asks if the Pioneer Fire Company was allowed to have a control burn. Clements second the motion to open a lot to allow homeowners to have a place to take their down limbs.

### **PLANNING/ZONING/HOUSING – Council member Sharon Renninger**

Council member Renninger would like to form a Flood Insurance Committee to save homeowners money on their Flood Insurance. Flood Reform Act may be delayed for another four (4) years. This gives residents time to implement ways to have their Flood Insurance premiums lowered. She would like to have the Flood Insurance Committee look into a Community Rating System. Some of the things on the Rating System the community and the Borough are already doing. We can get up to 14,850 points that can be earned. The average community earns approximately 2,023 points. If you earn 500 points you earn 5% off your flood insurance premium. When you earn up to 4,500 points you can earn up to 45% off your flood insurance. Renninger made a motion for Borough Council to embrace and support forming a Flood Insurance Committee. Council member Sargen seconded the motion. One way to get points is to educate the community on floods. Renninger would like to put a display together and place it at the Market when it is open and other functions in Marietta to get this information out.

President deVity commented that there are some things that we are already doing like Stormwater Management which would allow us 98 points and he felt we as a community could at least get 5% off of our Flood Insurance premiums. He does not feel that Marietta can be or should be tearing down homes like Harrisburg is doing. It asks that we designate a CSR Coordinator. What are the CSR Coordinator qualifications? PEMA said they are extending the grandfather for another eighteen (18) months on top of another nine (9) months. They feel it will take at least two (2) years to come up with another plan.

Mayor Vegso stated that this is an excellent idea without spending any money even if the tax payers only receive 5% off their bills. Getting this information out is very important.

Council member Clements stated that the Flood Insurance Committee would be looking at what we need to do to be a part of this plan. He would be interested in supporting this.

There was a unanimous vote to form a Flood Insurance Committee.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY – Council member James Sargen**

Council member Sargen stated that The Pioneer Fire Company responded to fourteen (14) QRS calls and thirty-nine (39) Fire Calls for the month of January.

Council member Sargen met with the Susquehanna Police Chief Ed Hauck last month to discuss safety awareness. Chief Hauck will be at the March meeting to give information and heighten awareness on how to protect yourself and your property.

### **SEWER & TRASH – Council member Bill Roberts**

The Marietta-Donegal Joint Sewer Authority passed an increase of \$2.00 EDU a quarter and \$8.00 a year increase. The proposal is to increase the rates from \$87.00 to \$89.00. The increase was due to purchasing more equipment to handle the disposal of baby and adult wipes being placed in the sewer system. Roberts made a motion to increase the sewer bills by \$2.00 a quarter with a second by Council member Sargen. President deVity asked for a roll call vote to pass the Resolution 2014-02 for the increase.

Steve Foreman – aye  
Bill Roberts – aye  
David deVity – aye

Eric Kramer – aye  
Allen Clements – aye

James Sargen – aye  
Sharon Renninger – aye

The increase for the sewer rates from \$87.00 to \$89.00 was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Council member Sargen with a second by Council member Kramer, the January Sewer Department Monthly Breakdown was unanimously approved as presented.

On a motion by Council member Roberts with a second by Council member Clements, the January Recycling Report was unanimously approved as presented.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Ray Vegso**

Mayor Vegso stated that he is still striving to have this Council function and his relationship with the president in a professional, civil and harmonious way.

First he would like to commend James Sargen in pushing him on acting on the power outage. They had meetings with Steve Bailey and others, with great help with the Pioneer Fire Company. This exercise will help prepare us for future events.

On January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> he participated in training with the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs and he encourages other council members to participate.

Mayor Vegso stated that the sinkhole on Wasp Street was handled very well by Clements, Sargen and Borough employees. The water flow from the GSK field may be contributing to the problem. The Mayor would like to see if GSK is responsible for the sinkhole and if they would contribute to the cost of the repair.

The Tax Collector Lillian Hill completed her training and the tax bills were mailed out.

Mayor Vegso spoke on The Flood Levy Sponsorship. The community has spoken and would like to make some decision on the signing of the Sponsorship Agreement. He would like to have people assigned to each task relating to the Flood Levy so it can move along. The Mayor would like to target having the Sponsorship Agreement signed by May. The project coordinator in Harrisburg is saying that nothing has changed since 2010.

President deVity stated that there is still issues with the design and the Mayor has not communicated with the citizens on their thoughts on the design. We have been working with the Railroad Company with DEP's help on closing of railroad crossings. The Borough needs to deal with the design changes with the engineer. The project cost needs to be controlled. The Borough needs to find a smaller project to work on that will have less land acquisition. Our main cost on the Flood Control Project would be land acquisition, railroad license and fees and the upkeep.

Mayor Vegso stated that it is in the Borough's hand to move forward on the project, kill the project, and the Borough Council will get the praise or the blame, and if you want to move ahead you need to move forward on this.

Council member Renninger asked if the President deVity could put together a report on where we stand on this project with facts, figures and names.

Council member Roberts asked if there was money in the budget for this project because it is going to be very expensive. He also asked if we sign the Sponsorship Agreement is the Borough then committed.

President deVity stated that money has been put back each year in an account for the project for the initial bond. President deVity stated that there would be about two (2) miles of permanent easement that we would need to get from the railroad along with some lots from the people. He also stated that the Sponsorship Agreement is very one sided.

Council member Roberts stated for \$20.7 million dollars you can buy all the homes on Front Street for that kind of money.

Mayor Vegso stated what are we going to do on this project, kill it or not kill it, but we cannot live in this limbo.

Council member Sargen stated that the President and the Mayor need to learn to work together so that they can give this Council guidance.

Council member Renninger stated that the problem is we have a project that has been setting in front of Council for a number of years and until we have the facts, figures and numbers the facts will speak for itself and personalities will come out of this.

President deVity commented that he would appreciate if Ray would meet with him and discuss the design issues with the Flood Control Project.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M. on a motion by Council member Roberts with a second by Council member Kramer.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

*Sharon L. Bradnick*

Sharon L. Bradnick  
Secretary/Treasurer