

**Marietta Borough Council
Minutes of Meeting held December 9, 2014
113 East Market Street, Marietta, PA**

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

The minutes of the November 11, 2014 Council meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

President Sargen stated the next order of business is to elect a new Council member for the vacant seat. There were four (4) letters of interest submitted. Each prospective candidate was given the opportunity to address Council and the public on why they would like to serve on Council. The candidates are Harold Kulman, Bride Hannold, Mark Davis, and Marcus Snow.

Council member Renninger stated we have well qualified individuals and she would like to nominate Bride Hannold. Council member Overlander nominated Mark Davis. Council member Foreman nominated Marcus Snow. Nominations were closed.

President Sargen asked for a roll call vote for Bride Hannold;

Steve Foreman – nay	Bill Roberts – nay	Oliver Overlander – nay
Sharon Renninger – aye	James Sargen – nay	

Nomination fails.

President Sargen asked for a roll call vote for Mark Davis;

Steve Foreman – nay	Bill Roberts – aye	Oliver Overlander – aye
Sharon Renninger – nay	James Sargen – aye	

Motion carries.

President Sargen asked for a roll call vote for Marcus Snow;

Steve Foreman – aye	Bill Roberts – nay	Oliver Overlander – nay
Sharon Renninger – nay	James Sargen – nay	

Nomination fails.

Based on the votes, Mark Davis is the new Council member. Mayor Vegso administered the oath and Council member Davis took his seat.

President Sargen opened the public comment session of Borough Council.

PUBLIC SESSION

Victor Still – 6 East Hazel Avenue – In 2006 he bought the property. They had the water turned off and had spoken with Ronda in the office about getting the sewer bill eliminated. He would like to see the ordinance in writing about abatement of sewer bills. He was told that he does not have to pay any of that money. He doesn't want to waste anyone's time, he wants to see everything in writing. Then he will be satisfied.

Council member Roberts stated that he had done some checking for Tracy at the Railroad house with the Joint Sewer Authority and their policy is that until you have the lateral removed from the house they will not abate the sewer charges. You have already been abated for Marietta Borough's portion of the sewer bill.

President Sargen stated that the Borough is required to pay a certain amount of EDU's to East Donegal Sewer Authority for the treatment costs. We are responsible for making that payment. Once Ronda comes back into the office he will get with her and research this and give him a call.

Council member Renninger stated that this is one of the reasons why we need to do the codification of the ordinances and very disappointed that we need to scare up the ordinance.

President Sargen stated that he didn't mean scare up the ordinance, he did not mean to make light of the subject, he cannot get his hands on it this evening but he will get with Ronda.

Bride Hannold - 552 East Market Street - Speaking of the Ordinances, is the Borough looking for volunteers from the public to help get the Ordinances updated. She would be willing to help in anyway.

President Sargen stated that we are not in need of help in finding the Ordinances', he does not have the ability to put his hands on the Ordinance this evening.

Mayor Vegso commented that he thinks it is great to get volunteers to help to update anything or find records. This would apply for the contract for the Zoning Ordinance; he believes the Borough is supposed to do something. But then after that we need to get everything on the computers so that everyone has access to everything and there would be plenty of work for several volunteers.

President Sargen commented that as far as codifications; this was brought up through the Zoning Project. The project was brought up several years ago and fell through the cracks. The Steering Committee had a meeting and this has been brought back to light. The timing of the codifications is being talked about and we need to prepare for it.

Charles Shireman - 345 West Market Street - Stated that the people may get there answers if they attend one of the Donegal Joint Sewer Authority meetings that are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month but this month it will be the third Tuesday. You may get your answers there.

Tracy Beam - 280 West Front Street - She spoke with Bill Roberts a couple of times and she went over to East Donegal Township and spoke with Joyce to understand how the sewer bills are charged and when she spoke with Bill and the price for the Borough is \$20.50 and take that times 9 ½ EDU's. Joyce also mentioned that when a business closed in East Donegal Township they take it down to one (1) EDU. She would like to see the breakdown and understand this so they can get it squared away so they can open the business. Joyce suggested that we look at the Ordinance so if they can meet with someone so that they can look at this and sit down and come to an agreement.

President Sargen stated that he will look into this and refresh himself with everything and he needs Ronda's help, so once she is back in the office he will get in touch with them. We will get this issue resolved.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE/PERSONNEL/FINANCE –Vice-President Roberts

Before us is the General Fund Monthly Breakdown dated 12/9/2014 the total general fund accounts are \$725,935.88. A motion by Council member Roberts with a second from Council member Overlander, the General Fund Breakdown dated 12/9/2014 was approved as presented.

Mayor Vegso stated that he appreciates that the secretary/treasurer added information on accounts to the sheet and the more disclosure that we have the better and this is a good step forward.

President Sargen stated that the next order of business is to update the Personnel Policy that the solicitor recommended the changes be made. Everyone has had time to look over the changes.

Council member Renninger wanted it to go on record that she discovered the wording where the employee initiated the review and thought that was strange so the wording was changed that the Borough or the employee can initiate the review.

President Sargen asked for a motion to accept the revised Personnel Policy. There was a motion from Council member Roberts with a second from Council member Foreman.

Council member Renninger stated that the revisions that are being changed is just addressing language in the policy that addressed maternity leave to medical leave and not changing anything that had to do with holidays, vacation, pension or anything else.

President Sargen stated that we have a motion and a second, the revisions to the Personnel Policy was unanimously approved.

President Sargen stated that we need to elect a new Pro-tem position. We have a President, Vice President and he was formally the Pro-tem. The Pro-tem would be third in line.

Council member Overlander elected Council member Foreman as Pro-tem. Council member Foreman accepted the position and Council member Davis seconded the motion. President Sargen asked for a roll call vote;

Mark Davis – aye	Bill Roberts – aye	Oliver Overlander – aye
Sharon Renninger – aye	James Sargen – aye	

Motion carries.

President Sargen stated that we need to move the unused compensated absences to the assigned fund balance. Motion was made by Council member Overlander with a second by Council member Roberts.

Council member Renninger asked where the compensated absences are on the budget.

Sharon Bradnick stated that it is under each section.

Motion was unanimously approved.

President Sargen stated that we need to un-commit \$30,000 dollars from the Planning and Zoning Project to be used for the Zoning Project for 2015 that is in place with Environmental Planning and Design.

Council member Overlander made the motion to un-commit the \$30,000 dollars with a second by Council member Roberts.

Mayor Vegso commented that this was in the fund as a committed item so then we move it into the General Fund.

Sharon Bradnick stated that was correct.

Council member Renninger asked if this was for 2014 or 2015. The funds that were spent this year are not part of that movement.

Sharon Bradnick stated that this is for 2015 and the funds that are being moved out are for committed funds for that project.

Mayor Vegso stated that we have \$71,000 in that fund so we are just moving out \$30,000.

President Sargen stated that there will be other professional services that are not included with Environmental Planning and Design Project. There will be a second phase to the project.

Council voted and it was unanimously approved. Motion carries.

President Sargen stated that we need to commit \$35,000 dollars. \$5,000 dollars from the unused Government Building Budget for the lighting project for 2015 and \$30,000 from unused Debt Service Budget and use \$17,000 for the Route 441 lighting project with East Donegal Township and \$23,000 towards the new truck purchase.

Mayor Vegso asked where the money is coming from.

Sharon Bradnick the Secretary/Treasurer stated that in the 2014 Budget we budgeted \$30,000 dollars to be paid extra on the loan at Susquehanna Bank. Instead of spending that on the loan we are committing that money for next year to pay \$17,000 to East Donegal Township for the lighting project and \$23,000 towards a purchase of a new truck for the Borough.

President Sargen asked for a motion.

Council member Foreman made the motion to commit the \$35,000 with a second by Council member Overlander. Motion was unanimously approved. Motion carries.

President Sargen stated that the budget is balanced for 2015 and the balanced budget has a value of \$1,193,524.00. There will be not increase in taxes for 2015.

Council member Roberts made the motion to accept the 2015 budget with a second from Council member Foreman.

Council member Renninger commented that during the budget talk and at public meetings there has been a request from our local tax collector; she has asked if the tax certification fees can be delivered to her. This has not been changed on our budget. While we are not able to adjust her salary before next election we could do an ordinance to have the tax collector receive the tax certification fees. She would like to make a motion to vote on that.

Mayor Vegso asked if we could have a second on that.

President Sargen stated that we have a first and a second on the budget and you cannot have a motion inside a motion. The Pennsylvania Tax Code states that you have to pass or adopt prior to the municipal election any changes to compensation to the tax collector. So we are not anywhere near being able to do that.

Council member Renninger stated that this has nothing to do with the tax certification fees.

President Sargen stated that it states compensation and as he discussed with Council member Renninger we charge \$15 dollars for tax certification fees but that search is not only on taxes but also on sewer, trash and municipal liens. If we give the tax collector the whole \$15 dollars then she is getting paid for work that the Borough office is doing. The County only collects \$5 dollars. He does not see the fairness in giving her the whole fee when she would only be doing one-third of the work.

Mayor Vegso commented that prior to this tax collector the money was going to the Borough office staff in the tune of about \$15,000 a year. Is he incorrect on this? The tax collector did save the Borough money.

Sharon Bradnick, secretary/treasurer stated that when we do the budget it is broken down into different departments. Her salary and Ronda's salary is broken down and a percentage is charged to the different departments. Being that we collected taxes that was one of the departments. Now that we have a tax collector we no longer have that department, so that percentage of our salaries is now divided into the other departments. So it is not saving the Borough any money.

Mayor Vegso stated that it did save the Borough staff time that the staff worked on tax collecting.

Sharon Bradnick stated that this is not necessarily correct. We took the payments and deposited those checks and did a check for the Counties portion and the Borough kept there portion. Now I still deposit a check from Lillian and do a report to make sure that we are receiving the correct amount from her and balancing her bank statement to make sure that it is correct.

Council member Renninger asked if the County is not performing that function.

Sharon Bradnick stated that no, it is two (2) separate functions. Lillian does a check to the Borough for their portion and Lillian does the paperwork to the County for their portion.

Council member Renninger stated that this is for the tax collecting not for the tax certification fees.

Sharon Bradnick stated that this was correct. The Borough office still deals with the mortgage companies and settlement companies as far as what is owed on property for sewer, trash, civil liens. Lillian lets them know what is owed or not owed for the taxes.

Council member Davis stated that he knew that this problem would be coming up and he feels that the only savings that the Borough would have is if the County collected the taxes and didn't have an individual as a tax collector.

President Sargen asked that Council member Renninger take her motion off the table so that we could move forward with approving the budget.

Council member Renninger removed her motion.

President Sargen asked for approval to pass the budget. The motion was unanimously approved. Motion carries.

President Sargen asked that we vote on the Ordinance for setting the Tax rate for 2015. There is no increase in taxes.

Council member Davis made the motion with a second by Council member Overlander.

President Sargen asked for a roll call vote;

Steve Foreman – aye	Mark Davis – aye	Bill Roberts – aye
Oliver Overlander – aye	Sharon Renninger – aye	James Sargen – aye

Ordinance passes.

President Sargen stated that with David’s resignation we need to fill his position on the Northwest River Trail Committee. He has been filling in and he would be happy to continue to serve on this Committee.

Council member Overlander made the motion to have President Sargen serve on the Northwest River Trail Committee with a second by Council member Foreman.

Motion was unanimously approved. Motion carries.

President Sargen stated that we have a proposal from David Miller Associates (DMA) to move forward with the trail. We have two (2) proposals for engineering design and permitting of the trail from the Decatur Trail head to Chestnut Street, including the footbridge over Evans Run and the other proposal is for the parking area and soft-launch at the Decatur trail head. Ideally you would like to have competitive bids but the Solid Waste Authority could not get us any. But we are not required to have competitive bidding for this process and we can accept these proposals as they have been submitted. DMA comes highly recommended. They are the engineer that worked on the trail in Conoy and East Donegal Township. He would like to accept a motion to accept the proposal for the engineering design and permitting of the trail project.

Council member Foreman made the motion with a second by Council member Roberts.

Mayor Vegso asked if this proposal allows the Borough to get all the required easements.

President Sargen stated that this particular phase of the trail we do not anticipate any easements from the Boat Club. There may be pending on how the Boat Club acts there may be an easement obtained by the Railroad. We do not anticipate any. We will not know until we get to the engineering phase.

Motion was unanimously approved. Motion carries.

President Sargen stated that the second proposal was for the Decatur Street parking area which would include a soft-launch ramp for kayaks which would be through David Miller Associates (DMA). He asked for a motion to move forward with this proposal.

Council member Roberts made the motion with a second by Council member Foreman.

Motion was unanimously approved. Motion carries.

President Sargen stated that he would like to ask for a motion to go into an executive session. Council member Overlander made the motion with a second by Council member Roberts to discuss the new hire. Motion was unanimously approved.

Council adjoined at 8:09 PM
Council re-adjoined at 8:25 PM

President Sargen brought the meeting back to order stating that during the executive session we discussed the hiring of the new Road Laborer. He asked for a motion to accept the hiring of Phares (Bill) Haldeman for the Road Laborer position with a start date of December 15, 2014 at a pay rate of \$14.00 per hour.

Council member Overlander made the motion with a second by Council member Roberts. Motion was unanimously approved.

STREETS & HIGHWAYS – Council member Sharon Renninger

Council member Renninger stated that she would like to make everyone aware that in January we will be starting the bidding process for the Hazel Street Project from Bank Street to Donegal Place. James, Sharon and she have been working with Justin Eby with the Lancaster County Block Grant on the Gay Street Project.

BUILDINGS & SPECIAL PROJECTS – Council member Eric Kramer

Absent from meeting.

PARKS & RECREATION – Council member Steve Foreman

Nothing at this time.

PLANNING/ZONING/HOUSING – Council member Oliver Overlander

Council member Overlander stated that he would like to take a brief moment of silence for Ronda Ney and her family for her loss of her mother.

Council member Overlander stated that he would like to have someone make a motion to Appoint Phyllis Stellfox to serve a three (3) year term on the Zoning Hearing Board, Appoint Freddy States to serve a four (4) year term on the Planning Commission and Georgiana Dorm to serve a three (3) year term on the Housing Hearing Board.

Council member Roberts made the motion to accept them to the positions and Council member Foreman seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Motion carries.

Mayor Vegso asked when we make these types of appointments do we contact these people or do we advertise the openings.

President Sargen stated that we go back to the people already serving and if they are interested in continuing to serve then we re-appoint them, otherwise we advertise that there is an opening.

Council member Overlander stated that they met with AJ from Environmental Planning and Design (EPD) on November 24th and this was the kick-off for the new Zoning Ordinances. They have two (2) workshops scheduled on Saturdays. These workshops will prepare everyone for the next public meeting on January 22, 2015.

Council member Renninger stated that the January meeting with EPD to make our wish list and what Marietta will look like in 2020. She encourages the public to be at the meetings.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY – President Mark Davis

Mark Davis stated that The Pioneer Fire Company responded to twelve (12) QRS calls and nineteen (19) Fire Calls for the month of November. Fire Police had 3 calls with a total of twenty-nine and one-half (29 1/2) man hours.

SEWER & TRASH – Council member Bill Roberts

The Marietta Sewer Department Savings Account at the end of November has a balance of \$104,236.12 and the Checking account has a balance of \$2,867.97. On a motion by Council member Davis with a second by Council member Overlander, the November Sewer Department Monthly Breakdown was unanimously approved as presented.

The Borough recycled 25,620 pounds of recyclables for November, and 49,800 pounds of yard waste. On a motion by Council member Davis with a second by Council member Foreman, the November Recycling Report was unanimously approved as presented.

Council member Roberts made a motion for an increase in the trash bill from \$45.00 a quarter to \$47.00 per quarter so this would be a \$2.00 per quarter increase. This increase is due to the new contract. The new contract will have enhanced recycling. There was a second by Council member Davis. The increase was unanimously approved.

Council member Roberts asked for a motion to have himself appointed for another term to the Marietta-Donegal-Joint Sewer Authority.

Mayor Vegso asked if there was anyone else that has applied for the position.

Council member Roberts stated that there is another position that is coming open and someone has applied for that. That will be coming up next month.

Council member Davis made the motion to have Council member Roberts serve another term which is one (1) year on the Marietta-Donegal Joint Sewer Authority with a second by Council member Foreman.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Council member Renninger asked if that is a paid position.

Council member Roberts stated that it is and it pays \$100.00 per month.

MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Ray Vegso

Mayor Vegso thanked everyone for coming and to please stay involved, it is your community. He also thanked everyone involved in the Candlelight Tour, especially MRA and Bonnie Whalen, and those who

opened their homes for the tour. He had heard a lot of positive comments about the tour.

Mayor Vegso stated that he is supposed to give a report to Borough Council on the marriages that he performs. He charges \$50 dollars to perform these ceremonies and he did a ceremony on August 17th for Michael B. Behrens and Alicia A. Cady at the Mount Joy Park and he performed a ceremony on September 13th for Kim Messer and Norman Ruby, Jr. at the Columbia National Clock Museum, a great place to have a wedding.

Mayor Vegso stated that the Police minutes and incident report are in the box and you can now access the minutes on line on East Donegal Township's website.

Mayor Vegso stated that we need to do a better job in getting the minutes up on our website so that we keep everyone informed.

Mayor Vegso stated that we have a police officer returning from Afghanistan, Officer Richard Siegel, and we welcome him back and thank him for his service.

Mayor Vegso stated that we do not enforce the parking meters from Thanksgiving through January 1st so park all you want.

Mayor Vegso stated that we should be able to put pressure on someone that we get better cell phone reception in the Borough.

Council member Roberts stated that Verizon just put up a tower off Route 441, and it all depends who your provider is.

Mayor Vegso stated to end on a happy note he wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season. Hopefully we can make 2015 a better year.

President Sargen stated that he and Council would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Holiday Season.

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:49 P.M. on a motion by Council member Roberts with a second by Council member Overlander.

BOROUGH SEAL

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Bradnick
Secretary/Treasurer