

August 27, 2012

The Regular Scheduled Meeting of the Lehighon Borough Council was held in the Municipal Building on Monday, August 27, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President Grant Hunsicker. Members in attendance were: George Kogut, Bessie Bauchspies, John Kreitz, John Bird, Darryl Arner and Scott Rehrig.

Officials in attendance were: Solicitor James Nanovic, Treasurer Kira Michalik, Borough Secretary Brenda Koons Mayor Donald Rehrig, Police Chief Neal Ebbert and Fire Chief Gary Frable. Absent: Borough Manager Nicole Beckett and Borough Engineer Bruce Steigerwalt.

Pledge of Allegiance

Guest Speaker

Steve Ebert Representing the Lehighon Fire Department to give an update on the progress of the project

He said they had the bid opening and came in over budget. He is not asking for more money but to let council know the budget committee is meeting to work on redesigning it and to cut costs. One item that drove the cost up was the storm water pipe coming from the rear of the station. It was being designed to go under the bay but because of the amount of concrete and reinforcement needed the cost really went up. Also the wires that go in front of the building have some of the steel and tradesmen feeling it would cost more because of the limited access of the crane going over all the wires which also drove up the cost. Looking at the square footage drove the costs up as well. They are looking at reducing the office area on the 2nd floor. In just a few short weeks they now have a redesign that they feel will meet their budget.

They want this building to be functional for many years as well as being fiscally responsible for seeing that what is built does not put a burden on the tax payers. They feel the redesign will do this while building it so if money comes available in the future the additional things they wanted can be added.

They made arrangements to store some of their equipment at the ambulance building and make Station #2 the main station allowing the contractor to take over the entire 1st floor of Station 1 saving \$50,000. Mr. Ebbert did give a copy of the draft redesign to council to look at. He then asked council to reject the bids that came in and asked that council consider bidding the concrete package separate to allow the foundation to go in before any frost or winter weather appears.

Hearing of Persons Present

Mr. Rodney Snyder of 145 Millway was present to ask about the "Jake Brake" issue. The solicitor said he did contact PennDOT and their feeling is that it is up to the borough to decide if this is something they want. If it is then an ordinance has to be drawn up for PennDOT's approval. The solicitor did send the information to the borough manager who was not present at the meeting for her to go over. He is not sure she had time to do so yet or discuss it with council.

Mr. Snyder still had questions for the borough engineer who is again absent about the alley and the curbing. Mr. Snyder still wants the curbing on Millway removed.

Carl Teets of 53 3rd Avenue read a resolution passed by the Water Authority honoring the many years of service of Ralph E. Hunsicker and wanted the resolution to become part of the minutes.

**LEHIGHTON WATER AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 2012-1**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LEHIGHTON WATER AUTHORITY
HONORING THE MANY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF
RALPH E. HUNSICKER TO THE LEHIGHTON WATER AUTHORITY**

The Lehighon Water Authority hereby adopts this Resolution in order to recognize, honor and commemorate the many years of dedicated and distinguished service which Ralph E. Hunsicker provided to the Lehighon Water Authority and to the community and citizens of the Borough of Lehighon.

WHEREAS, Ralph E. Hunsicker served and participated in numerous community and professional organizations throughout his life and was a community leader in every sense; and

WHEREAS, Ralph E. Hunsicker served this country as a Third Class Petty Officer in the United States Navy in the North Atlantic Theater during World War II aboard the U.S.S. Evarts; and

WHEREAS, he was an educator for thirty-seven and a half (37 ½) years for the Northampton Area School District; and

WHEREAS, he was an active member of the Zion United Church of Christ in Lehighon, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, Ralph E. Hunsicker was a graduate of Rider College and Lehigh University; and

WHEREAS, Ralph E. Hunsicker served as a dedicated member of the Lehighon Zoning Hearing Board for a number of years; and

WHEREAS, Ralph E. Hunsicker provided nineteen (19) years of dedicated and distinguished service as a member of the Lehighon Water Authority, including serving as the Assistant Treasurer of the Lehighon Water Authority for nine (9) years and serving as the Secretary of the Lehighon Water Authority for seven and a half (7 ½) years; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 30, 2012, Ralph E. Hunsicker was called to his eternal rest by God; and

WHEREAS, the Lehigh Water Authority and all of the citizens of the community owe a debt of recognition and gratitude to Ralph E. Hunsicker for his dedicated and distinguished service to the Lehigh Water Authority and to the community,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lehigh Water Authority hereby memorializes its sincere appreciation, respect and honor for their departed friend and member, Ralph E. Hunsicker, for his many years of dedicated and distinguished service to the Lehigh Water Authority and to the community of the Borough of Lehigh.

DULY adopted by the Lehigh Water Authority this 11th day of July, 2012 by Motion properly made, seconded and unanimously carried.

LEHIGH WATER AUTHORITY

By: David A. Harleman
David Harleman, Chairman

ATTEST:

Paul J. Kutz
Secretary

Approval of Minutes

Reorganization Meeting of January 3, Regular Meeting of January 23, February 27, and March 26, 2012

Councilors Kreitz/Kogut made the motions to approve the minutes as presented and all were in favor.

New Business

Motion to approve Lease Agreement with Fire Company #1

Councilors Kreitz/Kogut made the motions to approve the lease agreement and all were in favor.

Motion to reject all bids for the Fire Station Reconstruction Project

Councilors Arner/Kreitz made the motions to reject and all were in favor.

Appointment of hydroelectric committee of council

President Hunsicker said he and Scott would like to be on it as they were involved in it since the beginning. He then asked if anyone else would like to be on it but there was no response.

Motion to adopt Resolution R-007-2012 related to the disbursement of additional funds - MMO for Police Pension Plan and Non-Uniform Pension Plan

The treasurer said that there were additional monies given this year. The state aid. The auditors realized when they were here that we paid everything other than the additional monies that need to be disbursed between the two pension plans.

Councilors Rehrig/Arner made the motions to pay \$3,197.71 per pension plan and all were in favor.

Motion to approve Resolution R-008-2012 Authorizing Berkheimer to retain costs of collection on delinquent taxes

Councilors Kreitz/Bauchspies made the motions to approve the resolution and all were in favor.

Resolution R-009-2012 authorizing the treasurer as borough liaison with Berkheimer pertaining to sharing of EIT tax information for official purposes

Councilors Arner/Kreitz to approve the resolution and all were in favor.

Discussion on garbage contract options

Option #1 is to agree to the extension with Interstate Waste with the 2% CPI increase and

Option #2 is to agree to advertise the bid for the new garbage contract

The solicitor said we can extend the contract as per the terms of the contract or rebid.

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to bid the garbage contract and all were in favor.

Discussion on transfer of borough interest into a municipal authority coupled with a leaseback arrangement between the authority and the project company for the hydroelectric authority

The solicitor said there was a conference call with Summit and they were talking about what they may want to do regarding the hydro project. If there is a permit would the borough keep it or assign it to an authority and Summit's suggestion was to assign it to an authority created by the borough. The solicitor said he had no objection to it but it would be up to council. Summit did not want anything done at this time until they know the hydroelectric permit can be assigned to an authority and that the grant can be assigned to an authority. This is just for discussion.

Unfinished Business

None

Official's Reports

Borough Manager

Absent

Borough Engineer

Absent

Police Chief

Chief Ebbert said that today was the first day of school and there are some new traffic patterns on Beaver Run Road. There are some quirks to work out but all in all it seemed to run well today. Some crossing guard issues were addressed. He did try to get to all posts this morning but missed one or two.

Chief Ebbert then made a positive comment on the lower park and the bench painting. He talked to some of the artists while he walked through the park. They really are talented and he thanked council for allowing the project to happen.

He has an issue from a few months ago concerning emergency lighting. Lonny does not have any of the used lighting from what he has been told. The police station really needs to get some. After the recent outage due to the tree coming down on some power lines the station went completely dark and they had someone in custody. Fortunately nothing happened. He would like someone to come in and give them an estimate for emergency lighting.

Bessie and Cathy Getz came to the station today. They had two plaques that were given to Cap by their department that they would like placed somewhere in the station. He thought the vestibule to go with the plaque on the outside of the building.

Mayor

The monthly Crime Watch Meeting is tomorrow night at 6:30 in the high school auditorium. Everyone is encouraged to attend. The bike patrol will be there. The press has been covering it well and they are grateful for that.

Fire Chief

He had nothing to report. Councilor Kreitz asked how many guys on the dive team do not have gear. He spoke to Nicole about it and found out that they have to buy their own gear. Councilor Kreitz said maybe we can do something to help. Gary said he's not sure he's not that involved with it but they have used the dive team a lot this year. The old rescue truck has been put back in service for the dive team and they use it for the dive team and mountain rescue. Gary said he will have one of the guys contact Councilor Kreitz.

President of Council

Nothing other than the memorial at the Annex has started.

Solicitor

Nothing to report

Treasurer

She said the audit went very well. Ren Wentz has been hired full time now.

Committee Reports

Finance & Administration – Darryl Chairman, George Co-Chair—

Nothing to report.

Streets, Buildings & Codes – John Kreitz Chairman, Bessie Co-Chair –

Nothing to report.

Police, Fire & Safety – Scott Chairman and John Bird Co-Chair – Nothing

to report other than 2 people from the hi-rise were having difficulty crossing the bypass to get to the farmer's market. Do we have signs or something we could put up? Chief Ebbert took full responsibility for the signs no being there. He forgot to remind the new part-time officer to put them there. He did talk to

Al about putting a continental crosswalk down there which is more visible but that is where it ended.

Chief Ebbert did sit down there and ran speed to see how fast people are going and had one going over the 45 limit. The mayor did discuss with Nicole having the fire police active down there and she was going to talk to Frank. He asked Brenda what she thought as she is there with Frank every Saturday.

Brenda said the worst part is when cars are turning in off the bypass. She and Frank noticed it was difficult pulling out from Dunbar's. It is difficult to see at the intersection to pull out. She and Frank discussed moving the vendors down further to allow more parking where you come onto Lehigh Drive but she said it has not been too bad so far.

Councilors Rehrig/Bird made the motions to paint crosswalks at the top of Bankway with hash marks and a continental crosswalk at Maiden Lane.

Light & Power Committee – John Bird Chairman, Scott Co-Chair, commented on what was in Lonny's report.

Sewer Committee – Bessie Chairwoman, Darryl Co-Chairman –Nothing to report

Public Works & Recreation – George Chairman, John Kreitz Co-Chair – George said the pool has been a tremendous success this year. They would like to get some ground work established to have the basketball courts put in in 2013. They are also looking to bring back baseball to the town. Maybe reposition the field down there a little and piggy back onto some of the lighting being discussed for down there as well.

Acceptance of Officials' Reports

Councilors Kreitz/Bessie made the motions to accept and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Approval of Accounts Payable

Councilors Arner/Kreitz made the motions to approve the accounts payable plus the last minute invoices the treasurer added and all were in favor with no questions or objections.

Adjournment

Motion to go in to Executive Session for Personnel Reasons

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to go into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. and all were in favor.

Motion to go back into Public Session

Councilors Rehrig/Kreitz made the motions to go back into Regular Session at 9:20 p.m. and all were in favor.

Action on Any Items Necessary as a Result of Executive Session

Councilors Kreitz/Rehrig made the motions to advertise the lineman position and all were in favor.

Council had a general discussion regarding the position and asked the borough manager to contact 3 employees regarding the open lineman position.

Council also discussed the borough manager contacting Hinkle & McCoy to service the borough until the position is filled.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Councilors Arner/Rehrig made the motions to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. and all were in favor.

Brenda L. Koons
Borough Secretary