

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 17, 2016**

**AGENDA:**

Regular meeting of the Borough Council, Borough of Berwick, Pennsylvania was held Monday October 17, 2016 at 7:00PM; in City Hall. Present at this meeting was President of Council Alvin Hill presiding and Council Members Scott Bower (VP), Jay Jarrett, Andrew Shecktor, Travis Petty, Joanne Huntington and Mayor Tim Burke.

Councilman Jim Meighan, solicitor Attorney Frank Kepner, and the engineer were absent.

Also present were Borough Manager Debra Force, the , Police Chief Ken Strish, DPW Foreman Jack Kyttle, Codes Officer Greg Harkins and Fire Chief Bill Coolbaugh, and Press Enterprise reporter Susan Swartz.

A prayer and The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**REVIEW &  
APPROVAL  
Bower.**

**Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Andrew Shecktor, seconded by Councilman Scott**

**OF AGENDA:**

**All ayes, motion passes.**

**PUBLIC HEARING,  
CITIZENS  
CORRESPONDENCE,  
PERSONAL APPEALS:**

**Gene Boone, President of the Fireman's Relief Association and Captain of Ranger Hose.** Here to address Council and let them know what they have done over the last four years as there has been a misconception that the fund has a lot of money, isn't spending much or doesn't do much. So wants to give an over view of what they have done. The Rescue Unit has been paid off as of last year with Council's help of \$75,000.00. New Cascade System to help fill air bottles (\$19,000.00). Over \$40,000.00 spent on turn out gear amongst the 5 stations. Purchased air packs for every piece of apparatus at a cost of \$310,000.00 (\$33,000.00 left to pay off). To date \$80,000.00 spent on training reimbursement. Two Hydro Values (\$4,600.00 apiece). Rolling rack system for safety reasons at a cost of

\$5,000.00. Reliance bought a trailer to haul the rolling rack system and we helped. Training door purchased. Fireman's Relief is here to work with Council and we hope in the future we can sit down and talk about it first. Fireman relief was originally started to pay death benefits. Today we have a \$1,500.00 allotment that is given to family/estate of deceased members.

**Council President Alvin Hill** thanked Fireman's Relief for all they do for the community and apologized for any misunderstanding with the request for help with the new fire engine purchase. He asked Mr. Boone some questions about turn out gear being transferable. Mr. Boone said all companies are doing an inventory and will report back of any gear that is not being used. Mr. Hill asked him to make sure that fireman can take their gear with them if they transfer to another fire department because gear is fitted to each individual.

Mr. Hill then asked how much is spent yearly on training? Mr. Boone said the \$80,000.00 he talked about is over a 4-year period.

Last Mr. Hill explained to the residents in attendance that although Council gives a yearly check to Fireman's Relief the money comes from Insurance Companies that must pay a % of insurance policies written to the State who in turn give that money to the County and the funds are then given to the borough. Mr. Boone said that they have \$51,000.00 in available funds and about 3 million in stocks. He went on to say the Fireman's Relief originally started to pay a death benefit to deceased members. When asked how many are on the rolls it was stated close to 1,000 in active and non-active members. Death benefit is \$1,500.00.

**Gordy Bilby** stood to ask Council how they were going to handle the dog park that is going in across from his property. Council President Hill said that the property was given to the Pool Authority and is in Briar Creek Borough. Mr. Bilby said when he goes to Briar Creek Borough they tell him it is Berwick borough. Mr. Hill absolutely not. Mr. Hill pointed out that Jim Long was in the audience and he agreed it is in Briar Creek Borough. Mr. Bilby said they point the finger at Berwick and Berwick is pointing the finger at Briar

Creek. Mr. Hill said there are 2 council members in the audience right now. Mr. Long and Mr. Bruce Michaels that have both agreed the property is in their borough. Councilman Petty said we are not getting into the back and forth of this; the property is in Briar Creek Borough.

**Randy Panetta** stood to thank Council for believing in him and wanted Council to know that Kepner, Kepner & Corba have withdrawn the Berwick Police Department from his divorce case, and if they would have done that earlier this whole thing could have been avoided. It has cost him a ton of money and he asked what the cost has been to the Borough. Borough Manager Force said the bill has not been received yet. But when it comes in she will release that information to him (Mr. Panetta).

**PRESENTATIONS:** NONE.

**PREVIOUS MONTHS MINUTES APPROVED:**

**MOTION TO APPROVE SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 MINUTES** was made by **Councilman Shektor** and seconded by **Councilwoman Huntington. All ayes. Motion passes.**

**PAYMENT OF BILLS APPROVED:**

**MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS** was made by **Councilman Shektor** and seconded by **Councilman Bower. All ayes. Motion passes.**

AARON ZANOLINE	99.99	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	1,898.01
ADAMSON INDUSTRIES CORP	5,729.60	ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	150.00
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE ASSURANCE	1,068.09	JACK KYTTLE	70.50
AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE ASSURANCE	1,068.09	JAMES DALBERTO	139.52
AMERICAN PAPER & SUPPLY INC	331.21	JAMES DALBERTO	21.33
ANNETTE BRENNAN	50.00	JERRY'S ENGINE REPAIR	29.95
ANNUZIATO DEGEORGE	50.00	KEN POLLOCK	68.02
AVAYA, INC	25.30	KEN POLLOCK	89.00
BARBARA NAGEL	125.00	KENNETH STRISH	50.00
BARLETTA MATERIALS & CONSTRUCTION	252.56	KEPNER, KEPNER & CORBA, P.C.	5,479.85
BARRACUDA NETWORKS, INC	50.00	KEPNER, KEPNER & CORBA, P.C.	3,858.25
BARRY'S SERVICE STATION	128.26	KEVIN RYMAN INC	297.18
BEAVER VALLEY ENVIRENMENTAL LLC	380.00	KNORR HAULING, INC.	6,187.50
BEN MIKE	800.00	LARRY C. FRACE INSPECTIONS, LLC	2,400.00
BEN WOJCIECHOW	25.00	LAUBACH'S AUTO REPAIR	16.78
BERWICK AREA UNITED WAY	91.00	LAUBACH'S AUTO REPAIR	421.10

BERWICK ELECTRICAL SUPPLY, INC.	55.95	LENDENMANN'S REMODELING	14,800.00
BERWICK HOSPITAL CENTER	973.00	MAIAH FARLEY	25.00
BERWICK HOSPITAL CENTER	167.00	MARINOS, MCDONALD & KNECHT, LLP	234.00
BERWICK PROFESSIONAL AUTO CENTER	721.08	MATTHEWS FUEL SERVICE, INC.	45.36
BODNAR SALES & SERVICE	128.45	MATTHEWS SPRING WATER	109.00
BODNAR SALES & SERVICE	285.17	MEMORY LANE	750.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK GENERAL FUND	24.01	METROCAST	2.17
BOROUGH OF BERWICK GENERAL FUND	17.15	METROCAST	127.12
BOROUGH OF BERWICK GENERAL FUND	21,774.70	METROPOLITAN TELECOMMUN	776.35
BORO OF BWK MUNICIPAL PENSION	801.99	MGL	475.00
BORO OF BWK MUNICIPAL PENSION	801.12	MICHAEL MONICO	1,123.20
BORO OF BWK MUNICIPAL PENSION	844.68	MICHAEL MONICO	1,123.20
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCT	2,015.36	MICHAEL MONICO	1,123.20
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCT	34,859.66	MICHAEL MONICO	1,123.20
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCT	39,664.10	MIDLAND ASPHALT MATERIALS INC.	764.36
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCT	37,069.18	MIDLAND ASPHALT MATERIALS INC.	382.37
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCT	36,845.17	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	57.21
BOROUGH OF BERWICK PAYROLL ACCT	300.00	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	408.65
BOROUGH OF BERWICK POLICE PENSION	1,840.37	NAPA AUTOPARTS BERWICK	397.90
BOROUGH OF BERWICK POLICE PENSION	742.35	NESCOPECK AGWAY	125.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK POLICE PENSION	812.21	NMS	552.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK POLICE PENSION	738.64	NORTHERN TIER RESEARCH	725.00
BOROUGH OF BERWICK POLICE PENSION	63,905.57	P A W C	110.09
BPC	450.00	P A W C	39.48
BRANDON SHULTZ	50.00	P A W C	92.46
BRUCE MCCORMICK	400.00	P A W C	2,737.24
CAMPBELL PRINTING CO.	297.89	PA DEPT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY-E	36.00
CAMPBELL SUPPLY CO., LLC	3,265.88	PA UC FUND	305.06
CASSANDRA MOWERY	39.90	PANORAMA MAGAZINE	200.00
CENTRAL PA TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELF.	985.10	PENNSYLVANIA ONE CALL SYSTEM	54.61
CENTRAL PA TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELF.	38,919.24	PITNEY BOWES PURCHASE POWER	805.94
CENTRAL PA TEAMSTERS HEALTH & WELF.	2,107.36	PPC LUBRICANTS	325.60
CH WALTZ SONS, INC	105.80	PPC LUBRICANTS	273.95
COLE'S HARDWARE	117.83	PPL	1,025.28
COLE'S HARDWARE	271.12	PPL	88.03
COLE'S HARDWARE	14.71	PPL	178.83
COLUMBIA EXCAVATING, LLC	600.00	PPL	2,069.73
CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY INC.	693.13	PPL	11,509.51
CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY INC.	23.79	PRAX AIR	40.00
CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY INC.	14.19	PRESS-ENTERPRISE	197.60
CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY INC.	115.83	PRESS-ENTERPRISE, INC.	401.66
CONSTELLATION NEWENERGY INC.	1,999.62	PSAB MUNI RETIREMENT TRUST	67,451.00
CUSTOM ADVERTISING	13.00	RANGER HOSE CO	230.83
D&M FIREWORKS, LLC	3,500.00	RANGER HOSE CO	383.33
DAVID FEIMSTER	3,300.00	RELIANCE FIRE CO	383.33
DCED	476.00	RHONDA T. KOCH, CCR	75.00
DEBRA FORCE	195.51	ROBERT MAIER	50.00
DEFEBO GRAPHICS	452.00	SCOTT ELECTRIC	58.02

DOUG MCMINN	330.00	SMITH FARMS	90.00
EAGLES FIRE COMPANY	383.33	SQUARE ONE CONSTRUCTION	11,780.00
EASTERN LIFT TRUCK CO, INC.	1,028.50	SQUARE ONE CONSTRUCTION	9,253.00
ERICA WOJCIECHOW	25.00	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	1,121.52
ERIK HELBING	50.00	STEPHEN BLATZ	400.00
EUGENE GOLLA	50.00	STEPHEN BLATZ	400.00
EVIDENT CRIME SCENE PRODUCTS	84.62	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	164.83
FASTENAL COMPANY	38.61	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	1,423.84
FIRST COLUMBIA BANK & TRUST CO.	1,955.70	STEVE SHANNON TIRE CO	752.16
FIRST COLUMBIA BANK & TRUST CO.	1,412.58	SUNTRUST EQUIPMENT FINANCE	2,998.05
FIRSTLAB	243.00	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	242.24
FORT DEARBORN LIFE INS.	965.19	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	63.95
FORT DEARBORN LIFE INS.	965.19	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	187.06
FROMM ELECTRIC SUPPLY	58.61	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	51.33
FROMM ELECTRIC SUPPLY	62.46	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	93.96
GENERAL SALES, INC.	131.04	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	20.76
GENERAL SALES, INC.	54.95	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	373.21
GENERAL SALES, INC.	109.90	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	151.35
GRAND JUCTION	400.00	SUPERIOR PLUS ENERGY SERVICES	539.74
H.B.O. CARPORTS	445.80	TEAMSTERS	1,248.84
HAB-DLT/BERKHEIMER	60.00	THE INTERNET PLACE	34.08
HANSON AGGREGATES INC	382.20	THE LOCKER ROOM	374.00
HANSON AGGREGATES INC	373.75	TOTAL AMUSEMENTS	40.00
HARTMAN & LALLY INSURERS, INC.	3,058.68	TRACTOR SUPPLY CO	24.47
HIGHWAY EQUIP & SUPPLY	100.00	TRI-COUNTY HARDWARE	111.33
HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	473.37	TRI-COUNTY-LUMBER DIVISION	272.82
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	1,899.33	UGI PENN NATURAL GAS	33.91
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	150.00	VERIZON WIRELESS	306.85
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	2,122.60	WALMART BUSINESS/GEGRB	17.50
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	150.00	WASHINGTON NATIONAL INS CO	60.90
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	1,894.26	WEST BERWICK FIRE CO	383.33
ICMA RETIREMENT TRUST	150.00	WEX BANK	1,304.63

## REPORTS

### OF

### COMMITTEES:

MAYOR: Tim Burke.

- Ready to start the area elementary schools for Trick or Treat.
- Police stats... (SEE POLICE REPORT)

ENGINEER: Quad 3 (NOT PRESENT)

SOLICITOR: Attorney Frank Kepner. Not Present.

PERSONNEL: Travis Petty-Joanne Huntington- Debra Force. Councilman Petty said the committee is still working on getting the police hires ready to go. The grievance on the police hires has escalated, we have to wait to see how that goes. Nothing else.

LEGAL AND FINANCE: Travis Petty-Andrew Shecktor-Debra Force. Councilman Shecktor said not much going on. He was asked to read a note from a resident with regard to cats. Mr. Shecktor said something we need to consider is the on-going problem with stray cats and the possibility of someone contracting rabies and council knows about the problem and does nothing about it. The letter is from Mr. John Shangraw of 1517 Orange Street. He is having a problem with a neighbor that is being irresponsible with their pet cat that runs loose in his yard killing birds and other small animals that he and his wife enjoys watching. Dog owners are held responsible why aren't cat owners held responsible he asks. Councilman Bower is working on an Ordinance but said how are you going to control feral cats. No one has come up with a way.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Jay Jarrett - Alvin Hill. Riverfest was this past weekend and it went really well. Brush pickup starting then will move onto leaves. Summer concerts are over and went well. Will start to reschedule soon.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Andrew Shecktor - Jay Jarrett - Greg Harkins. Full scale drill will be tomorrow night. FEMA and PEMA will evaluate on traffic control points and RAD.

STREETS, PARKS, & BUILDINGS: Joanne Huntington-Jim Meighan-Jack Kytte. SEE DPW REPORT. Ber-Vaughn rest rooms will be closed this week and winterized.

FIRE AND WATER: Andrew Shecktor, Jim Meighan-Fire Chief Bill Coolbaugh. (SEE REPORT) This fire preventions month. Thanks to the other departments for coverage during Riverfest.

CODES, RECYCLING, & ORDINANCES: Scott Bower - Greg Harkins. SEE CODES REPORT.

SAFETY: Joanne Huntington-Scott Bower. Nothing. Council President Hill said that a vendor was hurt in a groundhog hole on the parking field at Riverfest. DPW found the spot and filled the hole in. DPW will patrol the field every day during Riverfest to fill in any holes in the future.

POLICE: Scott Bower - Joanne Huntington -

Police Chief Ken Strish. SEE REPORT. Gun mounts in discussion and they are still looking for a car. Uniforms are in and is being worn. Feedback is positive.

BAJSA REPORT: Scott Bower. SEE REPORT.

**BUSINESS NOT**

**READY FOR**

**ACTION or NO**

**ACTION NEEDED**:

Mark Grassly sent in a letter thanking everyone for the donation of \$1,000.00 towards getting van so he can get back and forth to work and regain some of independence. Council President said that a bigger fund raiser to help Mark who is a big part of the Police Department.

WHLM Parade of Lights has been asked to participate again. So if anyone wants to donate for candy this is a very big parade.

**OLD BUSINESS**: NONE

**ORDINANCES &**

**RESOLUTIONS**:

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS**:

1. Consider and take action to replace the 2016 Police MMO in the amount of \$49,900.67 voted on in September 2015 with the new 2016 MMO in the amount of \$63,905.57.

Discussion: This was a finding in the pension audit and the adjustment needed to be made.

**Motion to approve was made by Councilman Bower and seconded by Councilman Schecktor. All ayes, motion passes.**

2. Consider and take action upon a nomination(s) for a council seat appointment to serve Councilman Meighan's remaining term: Ending December 31, 2017.

Discussion: Floor was open to nominations. Councilman Shektor nominated Larry Surkin.

Discussion: The Solicitor has brought to Council that two of the applicants cannot be considered because of the HATCH ACT that disqualifies them due to working for the government. The two are Sandy Hampton and Kimmi Cooke. Councilman Hill said he did not agree with that. Councilman Petty said to vote however you feel and we can deal with the ramifications later. The list of candidates was read into the minutes as follows: Sue Yonkers, Cindy Sweppenheiser, Sandy Hampton, Sara Gardner, AD George, Kimmi Cooke, Alan Grove (who was sick and could not make the interview), Larry Surkin and Nelson Learn.

**Motion to nominate Larry Surkin was made by Councilman Shektor. No other nominations were made. Motion by Councilman Shektor to close the nominations. All in favor of Larry Surkin to fill the remaining term of Jim Meighan. All ayes. Motion passes.**

3. Consider and take action upon directing Borough Manager Force to advertise for loan bids for the Ranger's Fire Engine via public announcement and letters.

Discussion: A letter was received by the Fireman Board pledging \$100,000.00 towards the purchase of the fire engine. We will still need a letter from Fireman's Relief stating such.

**Motion to approve was made by Councilman Shektor, seconded by Councilman Bower. All ayes, one opposed (Councilwoman Huntington). Motion passes.**

4. Consider and take action upon directing Borough Manager Force to work with the Borough's Auditors, J.H. Williams and Prime Business Advantage Bookkeeping to conduct an audit on Defender Fire Company.

Discussion: Councilman Petty asked if there was an estimate of what this will cost. Borough Manager Debra Force said that it was hard to estimate; it could run between \$3,000.00 - \$7,000.00. Council President Hill said this comes out of the fire budget. Fire Chief Coolbaugh said Tim Deitrich said that after the sale of the building the money will be repaid to the borough.



Motion to approve was made by Councilman Bower and seconded by Councilwoman Huntington. All ayes, motion passes.

ADDED ITEMS:

a. Nothing added.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Petty.