

Towanda Borough Regular Council Meeting Minutes June 6, 2016

The **JUNE 2016** regular meeting of the Towanda Borough Council was held on Monday, June 6, 2016, at the Municipal Building. Council President Paul Sweitzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Christini, Mr. Klinger, Mr. Kovalcin, Mrs. Lacek, Mr. Long, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Roof
President Mr. Sweitzer, Mr. Taylor

ABSENT:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: Mr. Joseph Doherty – The founder of the Bradford County Veterans Memorial Park (BCVMPA) (located on borough land) spoke about the project and how 7 years ago he came before Council with this idea for a veterans park to honor all veterans. On July 2nd it is expected to be complete. The granite angels and scrolls are left to do yet. Mr. Doherty stated that they would have liked to have a rotunda over the tall bronze statue of the soldier that was installed earlier this year, but they just did not have enough money to do it. The cost would have been around \$80,000. He said instead they are installing the angels with names of soldiers who suffered a cruel fate. There will also be a plaque that has information about the “Quintessential Soldier” statue. He also stated that another plaque will explain the statue of the “War Ravaged Tree.” Mr. Doherty thanked Council for all their support over the past 7 years. Council in turn told Mr. Doherty that he has done a fantastic job in seeing this project through. Everyone gave him a round of applause.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH’S MINUTES:

Mr. Taylor pointed out that on page 3, 1st paragraph, instead of “expects to have the bid for the boring under the railroad advertised”, it should be changed to “expects to have the bid for the project advertised.” Motion to approve the May 2, 2016 regular meeting minutes with these changes was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mr. Klinger. Motion passed.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Roof reported that there were 14 incident alarms this past month. Equipment is in good working order. Chief Roof had an incident with the light tower engine. The tower was left up while he was backing into the garage. The building is ok, but the tower had approximately \$7,500 in damage. He is waiting for the pictures to come back for the insurance company to review. Chief Roof also stated that there is a lot of training taking place, particularly with younger volunteers joining the fire company. And finally, he shared that they have formed a committee to look into purchasing a smaller pumper to fit on a Ford F550 body chassis. This would enable them to fit into the new parking garage and attend to small fires around the borough. Chief Roof stated that this will take a while as he is going to look for grant money.

FIRE BOARD REPORT:

Mr. Klinger attended the last meeting, but stated there was nothing to report.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Miller stated that he attended the Bradford County Addiction Awareness meeting outside the BC Courthouse this past month. He thanked the borough for the use of the outdoor projector and screen used to show a movie to children who attended. Mayor Miller also said Officer Edsell got the bikes out to patrol around the borough. This surprised a lot of people who commented positively about it. Mayor Miller also met a young man with Down's syndrome that Officer Lake brought to the station for a visit. He toured the station and rode in the police car to the Comp Center where pictures were taken.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Epler reported on the new bike the officers purchased with their golf money. Officer Edsell has used it several times this month. Also, 2 police cars were damaged Saturday night while getting a suspect that was in a stolen car. Officer Bellows attended training at Forty Fort, Pa, for Uniform Code Reporting (UCR) system. He also stated the Officers organized a demonstration of Hornady ammunition for local police at the shooting range.

Chief Epler stated that they had two DUI roves this past month, one on the 21st and the 3 days of Memorial Day weekend.

The police also provided extra presence for the last day of school for Towanda. Officer Hennessy spoke to the seniors about being safe.

Mr. Christini also thanked Chief Epler for following up on the motorhome that was parked on the street for so long. It is now in the owner's driveway. The Chief said there is one more at this end of town that is now inspected and parked on the street again. Solicitor Smith is reviewing the code on this subject, and it's expected to be rewritten in the future.

May 2016

241	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	0	JUVENILE PETITIONS
56	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	K-9 SERVICE (BORO)
6	NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	4	THEFT REPORTS
4	DUI ARRESTS	7	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS
36	DISTURBANCE CALLS	5	VEHICLE DOORS OPENED
6	VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	15	WARNINGS ISSUED
0	OUT OF TOWN ASSISTS	0	K-9 SERVICES
11	CRIMINAL ARRESTS		

POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mrs. Miller stated there was nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT / PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Mr. Haight addressed a letter we received from Stephen & Jill Ayers of 604 2nd Street concerning their need for 2 (reserved) spots for handicapped signs to be placed in front of the house where they are living. The husband and the daughter have serious illnesses, and they do have handicapped signs in their vehicles. It seems the neighbors keep parking in front of their house and this makes it very difficult for them to get to their truck or car. A motion was made by Mr. Klingler and seconded by Mr. Taylor to allow them to have 2 signs placed in front of their home. Motion passed.

Mr. Haight also stated the borough has received escrow checks for the fire that occurred on Mechanic Street and the one that occurred at the Pringle house on Third Street.

Mr. Haight reviewed the Code Enforcement report.

There were 24 building permits issued in May 2016

The value of the work for permits issued in the borough year-to-date is \$ 2,367,395.00. Two Million of this is for the work to be done on the Courthouse roof.

Permit fees paid in May 2016 is \$1,487.00

Code Inspections charges in May 2016 is \$ 640.00

Actual total Towanda Borough collected in May 2016 is \$847.00

Mr. Haight asked council's permission to forgive the \$50 3rd inspection fee for the Cindy Wood apartment property at 7 Bridge Street, apartments 1 and 7. Mrs. Wood's requested this in light of her health issues, as she is in a wheelchair. A motion was made by Mr. Christini and seconded by Mr. Kovalcin to waive the \$50 fee for the 3rd inspection she has to have, but to charge a fee if it goes to a 4th inspection. Motion passed.

PARKING REPORT – MAY 2016

- # Green Tickets Issued: - 69
- # Yellow Tickets Issued: - 7

- # Green Tickets Forgiven - 5
- # Yellow Tickets Forgiven - 0

- # Green Tickets Excused - 2

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# Yellow Tickets Forgiven	-	0
# Paid W/N 48 Hrs @ ½ Cost	-	15
\$ Amount Paid w/n 48 Hrs	-	\$150
# Paid After 48 Hrs	-	3
\$ Amount Paid After 48 Hrs	-	\$60
# Tickets to Magistrate as Citations	-	0
Amount Received from Magistrate	-	0
Delinquent Tickets before Citations	-	5
	-	\$100
Revenue from Reserved Parking Spaces	-	\$3,460
Hours on Parking per Month	-	75
Police # of Tickets Written	-	0
# of \$10 tickets (Police Dept.)	-	0
\$ Amount Paid W/N 48 Hours	-	\$0
# of \$20 Tickets (Police)	-	\$0
\$ Amount Paid After 48 Hours	-	\$0
TOTAL MONTHLY REVENUE	-	\$3,770

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT: June 2016

Manager Lane said the YMCA has asked him if the borough will allow them to do a Father's Day, (July 19th) event on the Parkway (bike relay race type thing). Mr. Christini suggested that if they have this event to make sure that they have a sign at both ends.

Also, Manager Lane did not put the following in this report, but he would like to update the ordinance between Towanda Borough and Towanda Municipal Authority (Authority). The ordinance is outdated to this point in time. Towanda Borough does not make the rules and regulations for the Authority. The Authority is given the power to operate the water system, to set rates and set minimum specifications, and regulate the water & sewer system. When Solicitor Smith returns, Manager Lane will ask him to start working on changing it.

1. College Run –

Manager Lane stated the project has been advertised twice in each the Daily Review and the Morning Times. We also placed the project on a statewide builder's exchange. Currently, five contractors paid the fee and picked up a set of plans from Stiffler & McGraw. The pre-bid meeting to give potential bidders an opportunity to go over the details of the project with the engineer is scheduled for June 16th. The bid opening will be at a special meeting on June 28th at 5:30 PM. We will not need a quorum for this meeting.

2. Downtown Revitalization Project-

Manager Lane has received agreement from the Office of Budget that the matching funds for the project (Towanda Terrace) are eligible. He submitted newly drafted RDA forms and was advised they would be approved this week. He anticipates bidding the Flying Cow portion of the project in the very near future, and he is polishing up the bid docs with the Architect for the advertisement publication. He was hoping to get this done (advertised) this week.

NTRPD & CBPA are assisting Manager Lane with seeking additional funds for soft costs that are not eligible for RACP reimbursement. We are looking for an additional \$150,000 to ensure all costs are covered for Engineering, Architecture, Environmental requirements, and Consulting.

3. PennDOT – SR-3018 (Bridge Street Reconstruction –

Valley Energy has begun the replacement of gas lines that are located on Bridge Street and the peripheral side streets. The most recent estimated schedule is for Valley Energy to be complete in early July, at which time, the contractor awarded PennDOT's reconstruction project (HRI), is permitted to begin the replacement of the Water and Sewer lines. It is estimated the water and sewer replacement will run the remainder of the construction season of 2016. Manager Lane would like everyone to be aware that there will be instances where homes will be temporarily without water service during construction. The contractor and TMA will be diligent in keeping homeowners informed of such instances. In the spring of 2017, PennDOT will begin the reconstruction of the roadway, which includes storm drains, tree removal, and some curbing. PennDOT will also be paving the length of Fourth Street between Bridge Street and Pine Street as part of the project.

4. Main Street Resurface Project –

Manager Lane explained the Contractor for the SR 6 project is G.O. Hawbaker and they are permitted start work on July 5th. They will be doing curb ramp work this year with the exception of the intersection of Main St. and Elizabeth St. due to the College Run Project. Main Street paving will be done in 2017, which will be done at night, 9PM to 6AM.

Part of the SR 6 project includes local housing inspections of all the foundations along SR 6. Property owners will be contacted and home inspectors will need to investigate all properties, noting any existing damage prior to road construction; this will be happening in 2016. PennDOT limited the contractor to using vibratory rollers on the first pass of material only.

In Addition, we were recently notified of PennDOT's preliminary plan to resurface York Ave. in 2018. This project is to include paving from Mix Ave. to Campbell Road in North Towanda Township. The Towanda Municipal Authority will be replacing manhole frame and covers this summer and next.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Smith was on vacation.

BOROUGH SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary Kulick had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

UNION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – Nothing to report.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Motion was made by Mr. Long and seconded by Mr. Klinger to pay the bills. Motion passed.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Mr. Long reported no meeting held.

RECREATION REPORT – Mr. Kovalcin stated

TMA/WMA/CBPA REPORTS

Other Business Topics:

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mr. Christini. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Diane M. Kulick
Towanda Borough Secretary