

**Towanda Borough
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2016**

The OCTOBER 2016 regular meeting of the Towanda Borough Council was held on Tuesday, OCTOBER 3, 2016, at the Municipal Building. Council Vice-President Mark Christini called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM, with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Christini, Mr. Klinger, Mr. Kovalcin, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Roof, Mr. Taylor

ABSENT: Mrs. Lacek, Mr. Long, Mr. Sweitzer

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES:

Motion to approve the September 6, 2016 regular meeting minutes was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Kovalcin. Motion passed.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Roof reported that September had 12 incidents.

FIRE BOARD REPORT:

Mr. Klinger attended the meeting but had nothing new to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Miller reported that on Thursday, September 15, 2016, there was a house fire at 205 Elizabeth Street, which caused serious damage. He also talked about the accident on this end of the Veterans Memorial Bridge. He praised Chief Epler for his quick action in stopping the person that was driving the truck that caused so much damage. The driver was fleeing from being stopped on Main Street and rammed/damaged approximately 9 vehicles before being tased and pulled out of the vehicle by the Chief. It was quick action by the Chief that stopped this incident from being more severe.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Epler reported there were several DUI roves conducted this month. In addition, Officer Campbell attended Standardized Field Sobriety Training (SFST) in Wellsboro, PA. He also stated that all of the Towanda Police Officers participated in the annual Firearms Qualifications. In addition, Officer Hennessy attended training with Borough K-9 "Edo". Chief Epler also stated that the 2003 Ford Expedition's inspection has expired and our borough mechanic has told the chief that it will not pass inspection again. The Chief will bring the vehicle in and have it stripped out.

September 2016

320	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	0	JUVENILE PETITIONS
33	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	2	K-9 SERVICE (BORO)
11	NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	14	THEFT REPORTS
0	DUI ARRESTS	7	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS
42	DISTURBANCE CALLS	6	VEHICLE DOORS OPENED
8	VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	12	WARNINGS ISSUED

1	OUT OF TOWN ASSISTS	0	K-9 SERVICES
8	CRIMINAL ARRESTS		

POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mrs. Miller stated there were no meetings in September.

CODE ENFORCEMENT / PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Mr. Haight reviewed the report. There were 11 permits issued in September 2016, with a work value of \$53,850. The value of the work for permits issued in the borough year-to-date is \$2,706,287. Permit fees paid in September 2016 is \$2,608. There were no Code Inspections charges in September, and the UCC reportable permits amount year-to-date is \$164.

In addition, Mr. Haight stated that the property at 205 Elizabeth Street (Pg 4) is going to be a rebuild instead of a house demolition. Also, the work has started on the “Flying Cow” (This project is overseen by Code Inspections, as this is a commercial project).

PARKING REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2016

# Green Tickets Issued:	-	41
# Yellow Tickets Issued:	-	8
# Green Tickets Forgiven	-	0
# Yellow Tickets Forgiven	-	2
# Green Tickets Excused	-	3
# Yellow Tickets Forgiven	-	0
# Paid W/N 48 Hrs @ ½ Cost	-	11
\$ Amount Paid w/n 48 Hrs	-	\$10
# Paid After 48 Hrs	-	2
\$ Amount Paid After 48 Hrs	-	\$40
# Tickets to Magistrate as Citations	-	0
Amount Received from Magistrate	-	0
Delinquent Tickets before Citations	-	4
	-	\$60
Revenue from Reserved Parking Spaces	-	\$3,200
Hours on Parking per Month	-	80
Police # of Tickets Written	-	6
\$ Amount Paid W/N 48 Hours	-	\$20
\$ Amount Paid After 48 Hours	-	\$20
TOTAL MONTHLY REVENUE	-	\$3,440

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT - Manager Lane was out of town this month. His report is listed below.

1. College Run –
College Run is finally under construction (Hurray!!). G. DeVincentis began work on the 60” Storm drain and sanitary sewer on Elizabeth St between Main St. and Second St on September 7. Once they are finished with the section they plan to drop back, begin work at the River, and work towards Main Street. DeVincentis notified PennDOT they plan to cross Main St. the weekend of October 7. PennDOT is allowing DeVincentis to begin work on Friday at 9:00 PM and must be finished by Monday 6:00 AM. Overall, the project has been proceeding nicely.

2. Downtown Revitalization Project-
Middendorf Construction has tentatively scheduled work to begin site work this week for the new Flying Cow building. This is phase 1 of phase 2 of the Towanda Downtown Revitalization Project. I notified Penelec to move forward with the relocation of the electric facilities on the project site. The estimate provided from Penelec was \$59,037.55.
I received approval from the Office of the Budget for a time extension on the grant. We now have until December 31 2017 to finish project. That will most likely need to be extended again, however I anticipate (barring any more unforeseen roadblocks) to be very close to completion at that time.

3. PennDOT Projects–
 - a. Main Street ADA Ramps – PennDOT’s contractor is roughly halfway through complete with the project. I am very pleased with the outcome of the ramps.

According to PennDOT, Main St. base repairs, milling and paving work will begin on April 24, 2017. All work on the SR 6-roadway will be done at night from 9 PM to 6 AM. Work will be complete by June 30, 2017.

 - b. Bridge Street –
After a rough first day of the water main relocation, there have been no other major issues and they are moving very quickly up the hill. They are almost to Fifth St. with the new water main. Once the water line is complete, they will drop back to Second Street to begin the sanitary sewer replacement.

(14) Trees have been removed from the Bridge Street tree lawn area. After the roadway project is complete (2017), new trees will be planted. The Shade Tree Committee made the species selection earlier this year.

4. 2017 Budget -
I have finished the personnel budget for both the Public Works and Police and started working on the revenue side. I plan to have a rough draft complete for the November meeting with the anticipation of scheduling a budget work session.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Smith talked about the complaints on burning in the borough. He stated he looked at the ordinance and there are no restrictions on certain type of burning outdoors. The ordinance reads tight at the beginning of it and loosens up toward the end. He said there could be constraints put on this ordinance. Mr. Klinger told council that he mentioned to Manager Lane the possibility of putting the burning

in town question on a ballot for citizens to vote whether they want to allow it or not. In his opinion, he feels that many residents do not want anything burned.

Solicitor Smith stated that he would get with Manager Lane to discuss this issue. In addition, Mr. Christini stated that we need an ordinance that can be enforced by the police. Chief Epler said that 95% of complaints about burning are found to be smoking burn barrels with garbage burning in them.

BOROUGH SECRETARY REPORT

Secretary Kulick stated that Halloween trick-or treat will be held on October 27th from 6 to 8 PM. (Note: This date was changed to October 31st due to bad weather reports for the 27th.)

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - In packet.

UNION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – Nothing to report. No meeting.

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

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

RECREATION REPORT – Mayor Miller stated the rec committee reported volunteers are continuing to paint fire hydrants. Also, they are planning to have a bonfire again this year with “Smores” over to Riverfront Park after the Halloween parade on the 29th.

TMA/WMA/CBPA REPORTS – Included in packets.

Other Business Topics: Mr. Taylor stated that he contacted Manager Lane concerning the small openings in the new inlets and grates. Manager Lane contacted PennDOT concerning the new storm grates, and was told they were appropriate for bicycles and wheel chairs (ADA compliance). This is why the grate slots are so small.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Miller and seconded by Mr. Long. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Diane M. Kulick
Towanda Borough Secretary