

**Towanda Borough
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2017**

The MARCH 2017 regular meeting of the Towanda Borough Council was held on Monday, March 6, 2017, at the Municipal Building. Council President Paul Sweitzer called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM, with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Christini, Mr. Klinger, Mr. Kovalcin 7:05 arrival, Mrs. Lacek, Mr. Long, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Roof, Mr. Sweitzer and Mr. Taylor

ABSENT:

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD: Mr. Alex Piechocki, 15 Locust Avenue, introduced himself and stated he worked as an Environmental Engineer for a local company & wanted to talk about backyard burning. He had a hand out from EPA that was updated recently on 3/29/2016. This technical information viewed how this type of burning makes dioxin, and is hazardous to one's health. He stated to council that in order to make standard white paper, it has to be bleached with chlorine. Therefore, if you burn this and other chlorinated products in town, such as junk mail, in burn barrels with limited oxygen and fairly low temperatures, you will produce dioxins and smoke and other pollutants, and smolder away into the neighborhood.

Dioxin is formed as an unintentional by-product of many industrial processes involving chlorine such as waste incineration, chemical and pesticide manufacturing and pulp and paper bleaching. Dioxin in picograms (equal to one trillionth of a gram), affects health, can settle on crops, in waterways, and eventually end up in our food.

Mr. Edward Krause of Memory Lane introduced himself and stated he is in agreement to do away with burn barrels, as a number of people in his neighborhood practice open burning.

President Sweitzer thanked the guests for coming forward with a positive side to this ordinance change.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S AND YEAR-END MINUTES:

Motion to approve the February 6, 2017, regular meeting minutes was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mrs. Miller. **Motion passed.**

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Roof reported 7 total calls in February 2017, most were out of town. He stated that he has a ladder class being held this month across the bridge (1st house on the right) at a house that is being torn down. Also, Chief Roof stated they will be having a firefighter survival class in this same house. This gives the younger guys in the fire department training hours. Everything is currently in good working order.

FIRE BOARD REPORT:

Mr. Klinger stated the Chief covered everything that was discussed at the last fire board meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Miller introduced Mr. Kevin Doupe, who just moved here from Vestal, NY. Mr. Doupe is involved in EMS and coaching with TAYSA (Towanda Area Youth Soccer Assoc.). He received a warm welcome from all present.

Also, Mayor Miller signed a MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Proclamation for Towanda Borough which runs from April 1 through April 21, 2017 (POWERTALK21).

POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Epler stated that he and Officer Lake attended a 1 day Glock armorer's school held at the Riverstone Inn.

He also stated Towanda Police department had 3 pursuits in 7 days in the month of February. 2 were foot pursuits and 1 was a vehicle pursuit which started on Ward Avenue and ended in Sheshequin Township off Water Road (after the suspect lost control and hit a tree). The 2014 Ford Explorer police vehicle sustained light damage to the front end which is being charged to the fleeing person's insurance. The damage estimate is \$2,256.92.

In another pursuit on Mix Avenue down to Merrill Parkway, the suspect hit a pole on Merrill and Mix that disabled the vehicle and the person was taken in custody for suspicion of DUI.

Chief Epler also stated that they have been giving notices of warning to people parking on Main Street between 2 and 6 AM (street sweeping, snow removal etc.) anytime.

February – 2017

287	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	0	JUVENILE PETITIONS
36	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	K-9 SERVICE (BORO)
1	NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	5	THEFT REPORTS
2	DUI ARRESTS	3	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS
32	DISTURBANCE CALLS	3	VEHICLE DOORS OPENED
3	VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	13	WARNINGS ISSUED
2	OUT OF TOWN ASSISTS	0	K-9 SERVICES
7	CRIMINAL ARRESTS		

POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Nothing new to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT / PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Mr. Haight talked about the building on 5 & 7 Bridge Street that partially collapsed in February. He stated that the facade of the building came apart, and the owners have an architect that is redesigning the structure. Wall 6 and 7 portion of the building are ok to be reopened. The building is secure now.

In talking about compliance action, Mr. Haight also said that some people who get citations continue to pay the fines rather than take care of the issues. Mr. Christini stated that this is why the quality of life ordinance should be looked at as this would be a way to increase fines for repeated offenders.

Mr. Haight reviewed the report for February 2017.

Included in his report: There were 9 permits issued in February 2017, with a work value of \$219,505.00. The value of the work for permits issued in the borough year-to-date is \$248,282.00. Permit fees paid in February 2017 is \$1,106.58. Paid was \$791.58, for Towanda Borough in Code Inspections charges in February 2017, and the UCC reportable permits amount year-to-date is \$24.00.

PARKING REPORT: February 2017

- # Green Tickets Issued: 116
- # Yellow Tickets Issued: 4
- # Green Tickets Forgiven 5

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# Yellow Tickets Forgiven	0
# Green Tickets Excused	2
# Yellow Tickets Forgiven	0
# Paid W/N 48 Hrs @ ½ Cost	25
\$ Amount Paid w/n 48 Hrs	\$250
# 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	3
	\$60
Revenue from Reserved Parking Spaces	\$2,600
Hours on Parking per Month	68
Police # of Tickets Written	0
\$ Amount Paid W/N 48 Hours	\$0
\$ Amount Paid After 48 Hours	\$0
TOTAL MONTHLY REVENUE	\$3,010

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT -

Manager Lane reviewed his monthly report for Council.

1. Downtown Revitalization Project

Manager Lane stated that we received the first RACP reimbursement for \$411,847. In turn, we then made the first payment on the "Bradford County Infrastructure Loan".

The architect is continuing to work on the design of the parking garage. He plans to have it ready for bid shortly.

2. 2017 Paving

The first advertisement is in today's Daily Review. The second advertisement will be in the paper on March 13th. The bid opening is scheduled for March 24th at 12:00 Noon. Manager Lane is presenting the bid tabulation and request for approval to accept the low bid at the April 3rd council meeting.

3. Abandoned Vehicles

The Public Works and Police Committee met on February 27th to discuss updating the abandoned vehicle ordinance. Manager Lane stated the discussion included definitions of "vehicles" and "trailers". He said they plan to continue the discussion at this month's Public Works and Police meeting, after they gather more information.

4. YMCA / SCI Lease

The Borough Manager previously discussed the (LWCF) "Land & Water Conservation Fund" relating to the Borough's lease with the YMCA. He received notification from their representative, and she provided a few action items we need to address in order to be compliant with the "LWCF". The "LWCF" is requesting we provide a corrective deed to include wording that states the building will only be used for recreation. They would also like an addendum to the Lease agreement with the YMCA, which spells out, the agreement, is for "Operations and Maintenance" only, and a few other minor wording requirements. Manager Lane will author the addendum and present it at next month's council meeting.

5. Electric Generation

After much research, Manager Lane has narrowed down the choice to two brokers. "Incite" and "APPI". He stated both brokers seem to be qualified and experienced in the business. "APPI" is recommended by the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. "Incite" seems to have better technical tools to monitor usage and help identify power savings via a web interface. **Manager Lane asked council for their approval for him to sign the agreement with a broker that he chooses in order to negotiate our electric supplier. A motion was made by Mr. Christini and seconded by Mr. Kovalcin. Motion passed.**

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Smith provided a copy of the draft of an ordinance to regulate the conduct of open burning and emission of smoke within the Borough of Towanda. Solicitor Smith reviewed the entire draft ordinance with council. He will make changes agreed to in the new ordinance before he advertises in the Daily Review. He again asked permission to advertise in ample time before the next meeting so council will be able to vote on it at the regular council meeting on April 3, 2017.

Motion to go forward and advertise this ordinance and make available for public view was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion approved. Solicitor Smith will prepare with the changes council agreed upon.

Solicitor Smith also presented **Resolution 2017- 6** to council. This resolution is to execute agreement to be entered into between Towanda Borough and Chris Carr (Flying Cow) & deed.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Klinger and seconded by Mr. Kovalcin. The vote was as follows:

Aye/Yes: Mr. Christini, Mr. Klinger, Mr. Kovalcin, Mrs. Lacek, Mr. Long, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Roof, Mr. Sweitzer and Mr. Taylor

Nay/No: None.

Absent: None.

Resolution No. 2017- 6 carried.

BOROUGH SECRETARY REPORT:

Secretary Kulick told council that the annual Racing Heart 5K Run is to be held on March 6, 2017. They will again be using Route #2. Secretary Kulick also reminded the 5K organizer that traffic control be provided.

Secretary Kulick presented **Resolution 2017- 5** to council. This resolution is to give permission for the Borough to use dotGrants on-line reporting system to file Liquid Fuels forms annually.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mr. Klinger. The vote was as follows:

Aye/Yes: Mr. Christini, Mr. Klinger, Mr. Kovalcin, Mrs. Lacek, Mr. Long, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Roof, Mr. Sweitzer and Mr. Taylor

Nay/No: None.

Absent: None.

Resolution No. 2017-5 carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Pension statement was in packet.

UNION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT – Nothing to report this month. We will be starting soon to negotiate the Police contract. This includes President Sweitzer, Mrs. Miller, and Rick Lewis on the committee. President Sweitzer stated that any council member may join the committee.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT – Nothing to report.

RECREATION REPORT – Nothing to report.

TMA/WMA/CBPA REPORTS – Included in packets.

MISCELLANEOUS – Mayor Miller asked if we had heard anything about the grant for the bike trail study. Manager Lane stated that he received the “grant agreement” / contract last Friday. He will have more information next month.

Also, Mr. Klinger informed council that he is again running for council in the 3rd Ward, and has all the signatures he needs. He also stated that a constituent talked to him about the fantastic job our borough employees do. He didn't feel the borough employees got a lot of recognition they deserve. He told Mr. Klinger that recently he saw them working on a broken water line in the pouring rain in a muddy ditch in January. Another thing his constituent stated is that he has called the borough with concerns, and talked to Manager Lane, who has addressed his concerns almost immediately. President Sweitzer commented and praised the small borough crew that takes care of the water and sewer lines. Their coverage is phenomenal.

Several comments were made about updating the borough web site and including the borough budget. Manager Lane stated that this can be done and most recently we did have some website issues due to our provider making changes of which we were not aware. The carrier gave us a way to get around it, and we can work on it now. He will make sure it gets updated.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mr. Klinger. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Diane M. Kulick

Borough Secretary
Towanda Borough Secretary



Wastes - Non-Hazardous Waste - Municipal Solid Waste

You are here: [EPA Home](#) [Wastes](#) [Municipal Solid Waste](#) Backyard Burning

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Backyard Burning

Backyard burning refers to the burning of household trash by residents on their own property. Trash typically burned can include paper, cardboard, food scraps, plastics, and yard trimmings—essentially any materials that would otherwise be recycled or sent to a landfill. Burning usually occurs in a burn barrel, homemade burn box, wood stove, outdoor boiler, or open pit. Air emissions from backyard burning are released directly to the atmosphere without being treated or filtered.

Why People Burn their Trash

Backyard burning is common in many areas of the country. People burn trash for various reasons—either because it is easier than hauling it to the local disposal site or to avoid paying for regular waste collection service. In the past, backyard burning may have been the only way that many rural Americans could get rid of their waste. Today, however, almost everyone can obtain reasonably priced waste collection or take their waste to a conveniently located drop-off center as alternatives to backyard burning. Many state, local and tribal governments prohibit or restrict some or all backyard burning of waste. Even where restrictions exist, however, many people continue to burn.

It's a Health Hazard

Most people who burn their waste do not realize how harmful this practice is to their health and to the environment. Current research indicates that backyard burning is far more harmful to our health than previously thought. It can increase the risk of heart disease, aggravate respiratory ailments such as asthma and emphysema, and cause rashes, nausea, or headaches. Backyard burning also produces harmful quantities of dioxins, a group of highly toxic chemicals that settle on crops and in our waterways where they eventually wind up in our food and affect our health. The [Human Health](#) page provides more information about the dangers of dioxin.

Burn Barrel Science

Typically, dioxins do not exist in materials before they are incinerated, but are produced when waste is burned. Significantly higher levels of dioxins are created by burning trash in burn barrels than in municipal incinerators. Household burn barrels receive limited oxygen, and thus burn at fairly low temperatures, producing not only dioxins, but a great deal of smoke and other pollutants. Unlike the



barrels and boxes used in backyard burning, large incinerators are required by EPA regulations to have stringent pollution control systems that reduce dioxin emissions primarily by preventing their formation. Backyard burning is also particularly dangerous because it releases pollutants at ground level where they are more readily inhaled or incorporated into the food chain. For more information on dioxin formation and sources, visit [EPA's Dioxin page](#).