

Towanda Borough Regular Council Meeting Minutes May 7, 2018

The **MAY 2018**, regular meeting of the Towanda Borough Council was held on Monday, May 7, 2018, at the Municipal Building. Council President Paul Sweitzer called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM, with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: Mr. Long

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Charity Field, Executive Director of the local Bradford County YMCA was present to update Council on the status of the Y. She stated the YMCA is doing well even though they are down a little bit in memberships from a couple years ago. This is mostly due to the natural gas business that had a dip locally. She said they are still keeping the membership cost affordable.

They also will be having their annual campaign for scholarships for those that can't afford memberships, day camp and after school programs. They have "child watch" available for parent(s) taking part in the exercise classes, and they are working on the Summer Day Camp program, plus for the last 6 months they have been working on getting Corporate Memberships. She also stated that spring swimming is currently taking place at the Towanda High School and the YMCA may bring back the "lanes" in the pool for lap swimming this summer.

Mrs. Field also asked permission to install a wall to separate the building's weight training area and gym. This is to *improve safety*, as there are children running around the gym or people playing basketball, all close to one another. Also, there is music playing at group exercise programs that can be heard in the weight area. They have been working on this project and raising money for a couple years. She showed the specs for this project that were stamped and drawn up by Hunt Engineering. She stated capital money is raised and they are ready for approval from council to move ahead. A motion to approve Mrs. Field's request on behalf of the YMCA was made by Mr. Klinger and seconded by Mr. Kovalcin. Motion passed.

President Sweitzer thanked Mrs. Field and the YMCA board for all the work they do and that it is a great facility.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES:

Motion to approve the April 2, 2018, regular meeting minutes was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mr. Christini. Motion passed.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT:

Chief Roof's report was provided however, he had to leave the meeting at 7:02 PM due to an EMS call.

FIRE BOARD REPORT:

Mr. Klinger had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Miller thanked the firemen for the chicken barbeque they held on Little League opening day. All the chicken was sold out.

Also, he stated that a citizen wanted to know if there could be Farmers Market held in the underpass of the Treehab building. Manager Lane will contact Dennis Phelps of Treehab to inquire.

Mayor Miller also stated that a citizen mentioned to him that our area may be interested in getting the Stephen Foster statue that was taken down in Pittsburgh, PA. It was said that Camptown or the historical society may be the people to contact.

Mayor Miller also praised Bradford County Action for all the work they did in clearing brush and sprucing up Memorial Park and the area around it. He stated that it looks great.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT:

Badge number 1510-Officer Edsell and myself attended the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Screen, Train the Trainer instruction, which was held at the American Legion in Towanda. Chief Epler stated that this was a very good program.

Officer Bellows is attending training at State College for the DUI grant program, and he will attend an Elder Abuse program at the American Legion in Towanda.

Chief Epler reached out to a suppressor (silencer to make assault rifle more comfortable when shot without officer having ear protection) company. The company sent the department 2 sample suppressors to demo. The Chief has been testing them at the old New Albany Elementary school, thanks to the owner, Skip Dunn.

The Chief stated that Watch Guard Video Systems came to the Towanda station this month and demonstrated their latest body worn cameras and in-car camera. Mr. Taylor attended the demonstration at the station. He would like to outfit 2 cars, the 2014 & 2016, and have 4 body cameras that would be interchangeable between officers. They gave the Chief a price quote for the needs of our police department. Mr. Christini stated that he would like to hear from the police committee on their recommendation of this system. The Chief was advised to go forward and the committee will meet and report back to council.

APRIL 2018 – Monthly Report

404	COMPLAINTS RECEIVED	0	JUVENILE PETITIONS
47	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	K-9 SERVICE (BORO)
17	NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	5	THEFT REPORTS
6	DUI ARRESTS	7	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS
69	DISTURBANCE CALLS	9	VEHICLE DOORS OPENED
3	VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	17	WARNINGS ISSUED
2	OUT OF TOWN ASSISTS	0	K-9 SERVICES
12	CRIMINAL ARRESTS		

POLICE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Mr. Taylor stated that the committee will meet and report back to council.

CODE ENFORCEMENT / PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

There were 27 permits issued in April 2018
Permit fees paid in April were \$1,296.00 YTD - \$3,350.00
Code Inspections charges in April were \$275.00 YTD - \$1,125.00
The value of permits issued work in the borough YTD - \$186,139.91
Contractor's Registrations amount to \$6,500.00

PARKING REPORT – APRIL 2018

# Green Tickets Issued:	-	6
# Yellow Tickets Issued:	-	0
# Green Tickets Forgiven	-	0
# Yellow Tickets Forgiven	-	0
# Green Tickets Excused	-	0
# Yellow Tickets Forgiven	-	0
# Paid W/N 48 Hrs @ ½ Cost	-	0
\$ Amount Paid w/n 48 Hrs	-	\$0
# 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 Citation	-	6
\$		\$120
Revenue from Reserved Parking Spaces	-	\$2,990
Hours on Parking per Month	-	40
Police - # of Tickets Written	-	37
\$ Amount Paid W/N 48 Hours	-	\$70
\$ Amount Paid After 48 Hours	-	\$20
<u>TOTAL MONTHLY REVENUE</u>	-	<u>\$3,340</u>

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT:

1. **Downtown Revitalization Project-**

Manager Lane stated we received our first Phase II reimbursement (\$1.2 Million) from RACP. Hallelujah!!

E.R. Stuebner has finally caught a break with the weather. Progress

The current construction priorities are:

Footings – Complete

Piers – Complete

Backfill – finish any day now

Rough in Electric – finish any day now

Rough Plumbing – finish any day now

Steel – May 13th – June 3rd

Decking/Pouring – June 3rd – July 15th

2. **USDA GRANT/LOAN – BACKHOE**

Fred Smith is currently working on the closing documents and legal requirements for the loan for the Backhoe.

3. **PennDOT Turn back -**

PennDOT is presenting the turn back of state route 3020 to the union at their June meeting. Manager Lane informed council last month their presentation was going to happen in April. Unfortunately, the April meeting was cancelled and they will present the turn back at the June meeting.

4. **2018 Paving –**

On April 20th Manager Lane and Diane held a public bid opening for 2018 Towanda Borough Paving. The results were as follows:

1. MR Dirt - \$ 68,598.26
2. Bishop Brothers - \$ 57,072.40 - Low Bidder
3. G. O. Hawbaker - \$71,518.00

The estimate for the project was \$53,390.25

Manager Lane recommended council approve Bishop Brothers as the accepted and lowest bid for the 2018 Borough Street Paving. **A motion was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mr. Kovalcin to accept Bishop Brothers bid. Motion passed.**

5. **Parkway LED conversion –**

Manager Lane is working with a Penelec recommended consultant to find a LED equivalent for the Merrill Parkway high pressure sodium lights. In order to receive the rebate the bulbs need to be “DLC” approved. We are looking at a \$23 per bulb rebate. This is roughly 30% of the cost of the bulbs.

6. **Union Contract Negotiation –**

The Teamsters Local 529 President & Business Agent notified the Borough they are ready to begin negotiations. Manager Lane called to set up the first meeting, however they are not ready yet. They will call Manager Lane back when they are ready to sit down and begin discussions.

The Teamster Health and Pension Funds decided to conduct an audit of the Borough contributions to the Health and Pension plans. The audit is scheduled for May 21st, 2018. They will be conducting an audit of contributions made in 2012 thru 2017.

7. **Spring has Sprung! –**

The lawn crew started working last week as well as the crew from Bradford County Action. The Bradford County Action Crew has been removing small trees and brush from around Memorial Park Area and will continue on with several other projects around town. We plan on having them paint the Memorial Park Pavilion posts, remove weeds and brush along the parkway. The recreation committee arranged the group. Great Idea!!

Manager Lane also announced that Chad Strickland started working for the borough today. He is behind Fred Johnson, who is retiring. Mr. Johnson will be retired, but available to help Chad transition to this position, and he will also be a consultant for some months.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Smith stated that he was working on the paperwork for the purchase of the BACK-HOE.

BOROUGH SECRETARY REPORT:

Secretary Kulick stated there will be another article run in the paper of the Borough Clean-up details before the actual dates - May 18th and 19th.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Included in packet.

President Sweitzer asked for an Executive meeting at 8:18 PM to discuss personnel.

The regular council meeting was back in session at 8:45 PM.

UNION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:

President Sweitzer stated that the committee would like to meet soon. Waiting on the Union, which stated they weren't quite ready yet. It will be soon.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

The Planning Commission's April meeting had a quorum per Mr. Christini and there was a lot of discussion about the property maintenance fines. He stated that there was a motion made and approved to NOT raise the property maintenance fines.

Mr. Christini also stated that the committee will be looking at recreational vehicles, campers and utility trailers on streets in residential districts in the borough, and Manager Lane is going to give the committee some samples from other boroughs to read and discuss.

Also, President Sweitzer said that the committee should be guided, kept formal and on track with what is needed to accomplish.

RECREATION REPORT:

Mr. Kovalcin stated that the committee has lined up acts for June, July and August with a vendor selling ice cream in June, and a vendor selling hot dogs and drinks in July.

TMA/WMA/CBPA REPORTS:

Status and latest news is included in packet.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Lacek and seconded by Mr. Christini. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.



Towanda Borough Secretary