

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Council of Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, was held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2009** in the Council Chambers, 55 South Fifth Street. Present: Council President Bergonia; Councilmembers Baker, Casimir, Fluent, Mahon, Molesevich, Morris, and Strosser; Mayor Wagner; Chief Yost; Manager/Treasurer Smith; Solicitor Lyons; and Secretary Garrison. Also present: Kevin Mertz, Jaime North, Mike Miller, John Ratay, Hank Baylor, Matt Cunningham, Philip King and Robert Colon.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Council President Bergonia called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Councilmember Mahon, seconded by Councilmember Fluent, to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting held January 20, 2009. Motion was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Hank Baylor, of East Buffalo Township, introduced his Bucknell University interns, Philip King and Robert Colon. Councilmember Molesevich asked why the Borough doesn't have an intern. Manager Smith indicated we were to have one, however, she never responded.

**POLICE COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Mahon made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Strosser, to erect temporary stop signs, with appropriate blinkers, on St. George Street at the intersection of South Sixth Street. Motion was approved with one dissenting vote, Councilmember Casimir voted no. Chief Yost indicated this makes that intersection a three-way stop intersection.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to approve the HARB application, as submitted and recommended by HARB. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Baker questioned if we are ok with this, as we received a letter from Bill Baker. Councilmember Casimir clarified this is simply HARB's recommendation, the Zoning Officer still has to have the appropriate zoning and/or building permits before construction/renovation work can begin. Motion was unanimously approved.

**Dr. Jim&Yvonne Morgan/60 South Third Street. Reconstruction of Garage (Addition of Second Bay and Bonus Room Above).**

An application was submitted to and reviewed by HARB for reconstruction of a garage. A motion was made by Peter Hill, seconded by Mary Mastascusa, to recommend reconstruction of a garage to add a second bay and a bonus room above as shown in the pictures attached to the HARB application. Motion was approved with one abstention. (Ted Strosser abstained from voting.)

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to appoint Keri Albright to the LARA Board; term expiration 12/31/13. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to appoint Michael J. Lucas to the HARB Board; term expiration 12/31/11. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Baker, to appoint Steve Snook to the HARB Board; term expiration 12/31/11. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Molesevich asked if we have a letter from Mr. Snook. Councilmember Morris indicated it was received February 10<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Strosser explained Mr. Snook isn't a Borough resident, but fills one of two seats open to non-Borough residents. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Casimir stated after thousands of hours of work over the last two years, the committee completed the first draft of the zoning ordinance. We are currently proofreading, with two substantive issues yet to resolve, and hopefully we will be able to distribute a draft to Council, HARB, LDP, LNC, and the Planning Commission for review in another month or so.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to approve prioritization of the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in the following order: Susquehanna Valley Women in Transition (SVWIT) and reimbursement for the South Seventh Street construction costs. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Casimir questioned the amount we are giving SVWIT. Councilmember Molesevich said he doesn't recall an amount, but the suggestion to keep it open; given budget constraints we would use most for reimbursement of ourselves in an attempt to avoid raising taxes this year. To show our continued support to SVWIT, the Borough would then contribute accordingly. Manager Smith said we were looking for final figures from SEDA-COG relative to SVWIT. Mr. Miller, SEDA-COG's representative, said if he had to guess, which he doesn't like to do, he would say Kelly Township might put in \$60,000 to \$75,000. And, he believes the Union County Commissioners look favorably upon this project. The Borough's available funding is \$95,100, and \$18,600 is the cost of administration.

ATTENDANCE

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION  
HANK BAYLOR

POLICE COMMITTEE  
TEMPORARY STOP SIGNS ON ST GEORGE STREET AT S SIXTH STREET

PLANNING COMMITTEE  
HARB

JIM/YVONNE MORGAN

LARA APPOINTMENT (KERI ALBRIGHT)

HARB APPOINTMENT (MICHAEL LUCAS)

HARB APPOINTMENT (STEVE SNOOK)

ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

Councilmember Baker said this was discussed at the Public Works Committee, and consideration was being given to our neighbor and the County as to what their contributions may be. Councilmember Morris indicated she supports SVWIT, but doesn't support giving SVWIT half our money, because we need to have it coming back to the Borough. She suggested reimbursement to the Borough be the first priority. Councilmember Molesevich asked if this motion locks the Borough in. Mr. Miller said yes. Councilmember Casimir questioned future fundability of each of these. Mr. Miller explained you have five years of reimbursement. Manager Smith said reimbursement is based on expenditures of South Seventh Street; this is the last year. To fund SVWIT with CDBG funds would open the timetable of five years for reimbursement to the Borough. There was **much** discussion. Councilmember Strosser explained SVWIT is completely overhauling their facility; they are an important institution that services our Borough and beyond, and have decided they want to invest here, in our Borough. Councilmember Mahon explained she is supportive of SVWIT and would like to give them money; however, not as much as they would like due to the Borough's financial concerns. Councilmember Molesevich offered an amendment to the motion to allocate \$15,000 to SVWIT and the balance to reimburse the Borough, with the condition we revisit later in the year to see what the Borough's economic condition is. *Councilmember Baker indicated he would accept that amendment, and restated the motion: **Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to approve the 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, \$18,600 being administrative costs, \$15,000 going to the Susquehanna Valley Women in Transition (SVWIT) and the remainder (\$80,100) being reimbursed to the Borough for the South Seventh Street construction costs.*** Mr. Miller explained when the Borough allocates the money to SVWIT, as soon as the contract comes due there is a period of five years to spend all the money in the contract; if SEDA-COG sees that SVWIT is moving slowly, we do not want the Borough to lose money, so we contact SVWIT, tell them to spend the money, and if they don't we reallocate to another project for the Borough. Councilmember Casimir said he would like to see us maximize what SVWIT gets and what the Borough gets. There was **much** discussion. Council President Bergonia called for the vote.

On roll call the vote was as follows:

YES - Baker, Fluent, Mahon, Molesevich, and Bergonia

NO - Casimir, Morris and Strosser

Motion was approved by a 5 to 3 vote.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Fluent, to approve payment of the bills from 01/17/09 through 02/13/09 in the amount of \$238,147.75. Motion was unanimously approved.

Councilmember Morris made a motion, seconded by Baker, to increase the General Fund petty cash from \$75.00 to \$300.00. Motion was unanimously approved.

Manager Smith reported effective January 2009 the Borough's interest rate dropped to 0.50%; in January of 2008 the Borough's interest rate was 4.25%.

Manager Smith reported effective February 2009 the Borough successfully satisfied its outstanding mortgage of \$272,000.00 on this building.

**MAYOR:** Mayor Wagner commented we have been engaged in negotiations with East Buffalo Township, and perhaps New Berlin Borough, and some others, to begin a Regional Police force. After a lot of discussion, study and hard work we were presented with three alternatives for funding this initiative. The first is a funding formula where we take various categories, weight them and come up with a percentage each entity would pay. The second alternative was a 52/48 split of the total cost; East Buffalo Township would pay 52% and the Borough would pay 48% initially. The third alternative would be PPU's, which stands for Police Protection Units. You take the budget divide the police salaries into it and come up with a PPU, and then the Borough would simply purchase enough to equal the current service. This way also allows others to buy in. The financial edge comes from good management, combining our forces, and not duplicating efforts. She strongly recommends the PPU's.

Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to approve the Police Protection Unit (PPU) formula for Regional Police Commission with actual costs to be discussed and approved at a later date. ON THE QUESTION: Councilmember Casimir asked if the Chief has anything to add. Chief Yost commented once the formulas were in place and we actually saw how they worked, it became obvious that the PPU was the key to the operation of a regional agency. This also allows for future expansion. Councilmember Strosser said with regard to the size of our Police force, can we gauge what the trend of coverage may be by looking back three to five years. Chief Yost stressed the PPU's for the Borough have been the same since he has been here, and the same with East Buffalo Township. The fluctuation comes into play

COUNCIL  
APPROVED 2009  
CDBG FUNDS:  
\$18,600  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
COSTS/\$15,000  
SVWIT/\$80,100  
REIMBURSEMENT  
TO BOROUGH FOR  
SEVENTH STREET  
CONSTRUCTION  
COSTS

**FINANCE  
COMMITTEE  
PAYMENT OF  
BILLS**

PETTY CASH  
INCREASE

INTEREST RATE  
UPDATE

BOROUGH  
BUILDING'S  
MORTGAGE PAID  
IN FULL  
**MAYOR  
REGIONAL POLICE  
UPDATE**

COUNCIL  
APPROVED POLICE  
PROTECTION UNIT  
FORMULA

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

should an officer get another week of vacation or some other issue occurs; each officer provides a different element to the PPU formula. PPU's are based on an officer's availability to patrol. You constantly monitor demand for police services and the daily patrol; when you start to take away from daily patrol, and all you do is respond to calls, that is when you have to come back and say, we are being overloaded with calls, PPU's need to be readjusted. Mayor Wagner explained there is no perfect way to do this, but it is time to take a stand and move forward as it is in our best interest. There was **much** discussion. Councilmember Molesevich asked if Hank Baylor, of East Buffalo Township, would comment on this issue. Mr. Baylor said East Buffalo Township has discussed this issue; hopefully we will be prepared at next month's meeting to discuss getting our Solicitors to start work on the Intergovernmental Agreement and on what the Police Commission would look like, i.e. who will serve. Mr. Baylor asked Council allow the Mayor to represent the Borough and move forward. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Wagner indicated there is a free mediation clinic at Susquehanna University, handling domestic, family, and property disputes, etc. Chief Yost indicated they are seeking mediators and will train. Mayor Wagner announced this is the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peace Corps; she proclaimed the week of February 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup> to be Peace Corps week. This week she addressed eighteen home school and public school children, ages 4 to 10, and it was a wonderful experience.

**POLICE CHIEF:** Chief Yost said we finally picked up our vehicle from the Fire Company, so we will be fixing it up within the next month or so.

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT:** No report.

**SOLICITOR:** No report.

**MANAGER:** No report.

**OTHER COMMITTEES:** Councilmember Casimir reported LARA is holding their annual fundraiser, Casino Royale, Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 11:00 PM at the Lewisburg Hotel. The Community Relations Sub-Committee started making rounds of the local municipalities to give updates on the Rail/Trail Program. The main reason for addressing the communities is to seek input on design, especially as it impacts public works. LARA received the first payment for salvage, and hopes to receive payment in full before April 15<sup>th</sup>. We are only impacting private crossings. LARA applied for the PennDOT SMART Transportation Grant, and hope to hear something in February or March. LARA applied for a DCNR Grant in April, and applied to our Federal representatives for various appropriations. We have received letters of support from municipalities, and state and local officials. And, we now have a full LARA board again.

Councilmember Mahon announced the Ice Festival was a huge success, as well as the Polar Plunge. Mayor Wagner thanked all those that helped with the Festival. Councilmember Mahon thanked the Manager, the Borough crew, and Citizens Electric for making sure the lights in the Christmas tree were working. An Arts Council event called Celtic Days will take place February 28<sup>th</sup>, and there will be local bands playing at Purcell's Pub February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Wagner reminded Council the Town and Gown Committee meets four times a year, so there was no meeting last month.

Councilmember Strosser reported he missed the last LNC meeting. The big assessment is scheduled for Thursday of this week. Mayor Wagner commented the Bull Run Neighborhood Committee met last night and reviewed the mission statement.

Councilmember Casimir commented the Shade Tree Commission, in looking at better ways to keep the records, has set up an online resource. All documents are now in one place, up to date, and everyone has access. We are currently preparing for Arbor Day.

Councilmember Baker reported the Central Keystone-Council of Governments met, however, there was nothing discussed that affects the Borough. He, along with Councilmember Molesevich and the Manager, met to discuss the reporting system of CK-COG; we are looking to make changes to enhance this reporting system.

Councilmember Strosser said he is still waiting on comments from Council with regard to the Union County Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan Committee.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**POLICE CHIEF**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**SOLICITOR**

**MANAGER**

**OTHER COMMITTEES**  
**LARA**

**DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP**

**TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE**

**LNC**

**SHADE TREE COMMISSION**

**CK-COG**

**U/C MULTI-MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:** None.

**WRITTEN REPORTS:** Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Morris, to acknowledge receipt of the Budget Index, Police/Parking Reports, Zoning Officer Report, and Code Enforcement Officer Report. Motion was unanimously approved.

**WORK SESSION:** Council President Bergonia reported there will be a work session March 10<sup>th</sup> for financial discussions.

There being no further business, Councilmember Baker made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Casimir, to adjourn the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Garrison  
Borough Secretary

**COUNCILMEMBER  
COMMENTS**

**WRITTEN  
REPORTS**

**WORK SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**