

August 1, 2011

Towanda, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the Towanda Borough Council was held on Monday, August 1, 2011 at the Municipal Building, 724 Main Street. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Mark Christini, followed by silent prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll call was taken and recorded as follows:

PRESENT: Mrs. Clark, Mr. Christini, Mr. Klinger, M. Kovalcin, Mr. Long, Mrs. Miller

ABSENT: Mr. McLinko, Mr. Roof, Mr. Sweitzer

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens present with any comments.

ORDINANCE 2011-3

Mrs. Miller made a motion seconded by Mr. Kovalcin to approve, by resolution, Ordinance No. 2011-3 that was advertised last week in The Daily Review by way of summary description and was made available for inspection in its entirety at the office of the Borough Secretary, the Bradford County Law Library and the legal department of The Daily Review. The proposed Ordinance No. 2011-3 rescinds and reinstates the Towanda Borough Police Civil Service Commission and appointment of members.

The Council was polled and vote recorded as follows:

YES: Miller, Clark, Klinger, Long, Kovalcin, Christini

NAYES: None

Resolution 2011-9 carried.

Mr. Frawley stated the Commission will meet within ten (10) days and reorganize and formally adopt the Rules and Regulations of the Towanda Borough Police Civil Service Commission. He noted the commission met several times and took very seriously the role they played in preparing these rules and regulations. Mr. Frawley said he had consulted with some experts and labor lawyers on civil service laws noting there will be some expenses as a result. Mr. Kovalcin said it appears that all was done right and it is worth the cost to know it was done right. Mrs. Clark asked about a time-line for hiring new officers. Mr. Frawley thought advertising could begin by the end of the month with a selection of officers within four weeks after that. Mr. Long noted it has been "quite a while" since hiring has been done through the Civil Service process and now that all is "streamlined" the process won't take as long in the future.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

Mrs. Clark made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Miller to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2011 Council Meeting. The motion was passed.

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FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Mr. Roof was not present but a report given to members of council showed there were 15 calls between June 26 and July 30, 2011. To date this year there have been 118 calls with 78 total calls in 2010 to this date.

FIRE BOARD REPORT

Mr. Klinger stated there was no meeting. However, Mr. Klinger made a motion to approve Tom Franklin as a tower driver. Mr. Kovalcin seconded this motion. It was noted Mr. Franklin has met all the qualifications to become a driver. The motion was passed.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Osman reported the new part time officers are doing well and were "good hires". The K-9 unit attended Hurley's Supermarket Kids Day, conducted a presentation for the Towanda Summer Rec program and participated in the First Friday parade on July 1st. The department has also assisted the State Police with DUI checkpoints, some of which were held in the borough netting seven (7) DUI arrests. Chief Osman stated the gold unmarked car is getting ready for "retirement" and we should probably start looking for another car in the near future. Mr. Kovalcin stated this "car" does not owe us anything – it has been a good car.

Chief Osman asked that approval be given and a resolution passed to participate in the DUI Grant program again this year. He noted the grant year runs from October 1st to September 30th and is the same one approved every year. Mrs. Miller made a motion, seconded by Mr. Klinger that Resolution # 2011-10 be approved.

The Council was polled and vote recorded as follows:

YES: Miller, Clark, Klinger, Long, Kovalcin, Christini

NAYES: None

Resolution 2011-10 carried.

Chief Osman stated the new K-9 unit is almost ready to go. Mr. Long reported that he had been told by a resident that some young girls were seen walking near the Merrill Parkway one night around midnight. He wondered if this may be a violation of the "curfew". Chief Osman noted they had a couple issues this month.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Mr. Haight reported the brick house at 101 York Avenue is being renovated. Mrs. Clark said the owner is looking for any old pictures that may be available to help in this project. He is duplicating the original posts on the front porch and is trying to restore the house to make it look like the original. Mr. Haight said it will be a slow process but is a good project. Mr. Fairchild noted he could possibly find some information on the old house in the historic walking tour information. It was noted that back when the

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house was originally built it was featured on a magazine cover. He also stated that at one time the house was also a Church.

Mr. Haight also reported the contractor's registrations are about one-half of what they used to be. Regarding the violations noted in the report, some of the corrections are in the process of being made and there will likely be a citation issued on at least one property.

There was no Code Enforcement Committee meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Fairchild noted the borough crew has been busy filling potholes. He noted PennDot is now working on Bridge Street repairing the "bad areas" on that street. He hopes they will go to Poplar Street very soon.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Police Arbitration

Mr. Fairchild noted regarding the Police Arbitration the Union Attorney has asked for an extension from the scheduled July 29 meeting and it will be held on August 4th.

Automated Red Light Enforcement

The application for the \$225,000 in Automated Red Light Enforcement grant monies has been submitted. These are video activated lights and will not solve all the congestion. Upon award of the grant they must be installed within one year.

SCI/YMCA Lease

Discussions on the SCI/YMCA lease are progressing. Mr. Fairchild said he has spoken to and received some information from the Mansfield Borough Manager and is trying to arrange a meeting. They are similar to our situation but are more functional. Mr. Fairchild urged anyone who has not seen the improvements to take a few minutes and tour the facility. There have been a lot of very good improvements. Mrs. Clark noted that the grant received from Chesapeake was not severely restricted and Ms. Dibble has done a very good job in stretching the money received. Parking appears to be a problem area that needs correcting. Mr. Fairchild said the membership is around 1000 now as opposed to roughly 200 a couple years ago. He would suggest removing the skateboard park and selling the equipment and making a parking area for approximately 16 vehicles in that area. The park is not used often because the skate boarders would rather be in view of the public and some are offended about the rules to wear helmets and other safety restrictions. Mrs. Clark made a motion to this effect. This was seconded by Mr. Klinger and passed.

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FEMA – PEMA – Bradford Co EMA Meeting

As a result of the disaster in April of this year that was declared by way of a ratification by the President of the United States, Mr. Fairchild and Mr. Haight met with officials from PEMA, FEMA and the Bradford Co. EMA officials and toured the College Run area from Second Street to Gorman's Pond. He noted that the engineer from FEMA was very interested in the fact that this was built during the depression and the wooden box culverts. It is hoped that we will be able to get a significant grant as a result of the damages done during that storm.

Mr. Fairchild requested Council approving Resolution No. 2011-11 approving him as the authorizing agent for this PEMA grant.

Mr. Long asked if they were only looking specifically at College Run. Would it be possible to look at other areas such as Cash Creek and near the Eilenberger Springs. Mr. Fairchild said the spring area had not been surveyed this year to check for damage but it would be done. Mr. Long also asked if there had been any issues with Mix Run. Mr. Haight said there was some minor work done this year but nothing major in the past 5 or 6 years.

A motion was made by Mr. Long and seconded by Mr. Kovalcin to pass the resolution No. 2011-11 approving the Borwough Manger as the agent for the PEMA grant application.

The Council was polled and vote recorded as follows:

YES: Miller, Clark, Klinger, Long, Kovalcin, Christini

NAYES: None

Resolution 2011-11 carried.

Streetscape 4 Project

Mr. Fairchild noted the Streetscape 4 project is well underway and has received many inquiries on the path up the bank from the Merrill Parkway to N. River St. He did note the contractor has run into a lot of coal ash at the north end of the ramp. This is presenting a stabilization problem as nothing will grow in coal ash. There has also been some wash outs and unknown drainage issues not realized until work was being done. Mr. Fairchild described the path the project will be taking and how the project will all be tied together. At the southern end the paved trail will be extended from Elizabeth St to the south edge of the Farley Connector. From there a concrete sidewalk will be installed to connect with the existing sidewalk on S. Main Street. Curb cuts will be made and a painted crosswalk installed to connect with the concrete over the railroad tracks to connect with the sidewalk to Senator Madigan Gateway Park. There will also be 28 benches, 8 bike racks and 25 trash containers installed when completed. This is all part of the Transportation Enhancement grant that was received in early 2007.

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Bradford County Veterans' Memorial Park

Mr. Fairchild stated we are waiting to see if the State Grant is approved and determine how to spend the grant, if received, on the design. The architect will be here August 8th along with the perspective engineering firm.

BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Frawley noted that last meeting there was an interested party in having a public hearing regarding the transfer of a liquor license. Unfortunately, this party is not ready for this hearing at this time. Mr. Frawley is looking for authorization to advertise a public hearing in this matter when appropriate. Mrs. Clark made a motion seconded by Mr. Klinger to authorize the solicitor to advertise this hearing as required. The motion was passed.

BOROUGH SECRETARY'S REPORT

It was noted it is time to apply for eligibility to participate in the Federal Surplus Program. Mrs. Miller made a motion seconded by Mr. Kovalcin that this application be sent. The motion was passed.

Council members were reminded of the annual borough picnic on August 12th at 4:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

There was nothing to report.

UNION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

There was nothing new to report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Kovalcin made a motion seconded by Mrs. Miller to approve the bills for payment. The motion was passed.

PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no meeting. Mr. Christini asked Mr. Fairchild the status of the "codification". Mr. Fairchild noted there was nothing new relative to that, however, we did receive the new "Zoning Map".

RECREATION REPORT

Mayor Miller noted the program was going very well with it ending this week. The new director had a lot of new ideas for the program and is looking forward to next year.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Miller thanked Chief Osman for correcting the parking situation near Sturzen Furniture. He would also like to thank the Chief for the extra shifts he has been picking up because of the shortage of police officers.

TMA/CBPA REPORTS

Mr. Klinger asked Mr. Fairchild about his thoughts on the solar panel at the sewer pump station in Wysox. Mr. Fairchild said he did not have a lot of information but is aware that it is producing significant kilowatt hours.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Mrs. Clark and seconded by Mr. Kovalcin.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Wilcox
Recording Secretary