

**BOROUGH OF DUNCANNON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Special Meeting, August 8, 2016**

- Members Present:** Kraig Nace, Darryl Croutharmel, Frank Eppley, Ron Leonhard, Roger Williams, Jeffrey Kirkhoff, Christie Young.
- Members Absent:** Mayor Jack Conrad
- Others Present:** Borough Manager – Chris Courogen, Solicitor –William Dissinger,
- Citizens Present:** Stewart Peters, Ashley Hill, Tim Auxt, Heather Audet, Edward Ream, Mike Shive, Margie Safko, Betsy Kirkhoff, Bob Finnen, Gina Myers, Maryann Landis, Jim Ryan, Kathy Smith, Tim Smith, Jaime Wright, Robert Wright, Stanley Mutzabaugh, Jesse Boyer, Lee Wright, Joseph Landis, Dave Keen, Lisa Landis, Jackie Green, Nickolas Basul, W. J. Hench, Karl Conrad, Byron Worner, Lisa Billman, Lewis Howell, Mike Wolfersberger, Derek Peters.

Mr. Nace opened the Borough Council meeting at 6:00PM on August 8, 2016 the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag followed by a moment of silence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Auxt – Mr. Auxt stated that the polices contract should not be canceled. He asked what the consequences would be if the vote was made not to pay the contract, how the contract negotiations with Penn Township have progressed since the last meeting and questions regarding Borough finances.

Mr. Mark Morgan - Summarized his current view of the Borough financial situation.

Heather Audet – Ms. Audet stated that there have been vendettas between current council members and the police chief in the past and she wants to be ensured that any decisions made are for financial reasons.

Bob Finnen – Mr. Finnen asked which members of council make up the finance committee. He asked if the financial information provided tonight by Mr. Morgan was new to council. Mr. Morgan stated that the information was new as of Friday, August 5 and today. Mr. Morgan said that in the 2016 budget every fund is budgeted for a loss.

6:30pm – Solicitor Dissinger exited the meeting to attend to a previous commitment.

Margie Safko – Ms. Safko stated that she did contact the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) and asked what type of coverage we could expect should we cancel police services with Penn Township.

Representatives of the PSP will be present at the August 16, 2016 meeting to answer questions and concerns.

Heather Audet – Ms. Audet stated that if police services are to be cancelled, it must be done in the correct way. The consequences must be clear before any decisions are made that will affect the lives of everyone in Duncannon.

Derek Peters – Mr. Peters urged Council to keep the police coverage provided by the Penn Township Police Department. He stated that there is a documented drug problem in the Duncannon Borough and that it would worsen with lacking police coverage. He does not want to see lives traded for dollars.

Lewis Howell – Mr. Howell stated that the drug problem in the borough is worsening. It is a visible difference.

Betsy Kirkhoff – Mrs. Kirkhoff asked why this evenings meeting was initiated and by whom. She asked what changed since the last meeting to make the decision not to send the check to Penn Township.

Mr. Croutharmel stated that he had a discussion with other members of the Public Safety Committee and they called for a special meeting to revisit the vote to pay the third quarter police services contract. He also stated that police contract negotiations were postponed pending the outcome of this meeting.

Bill Hamilton – Mr. Hamilton asked how it is possible that the Borough has not had an Audit since 2013.

Mr. Morgan said that a 2014 audit was done but it gave an 'adverse opinion'. The Borough did satisfy the obligation of having the audit done, but that audit stated that an opinion could not be given on the numbers. The 2015 audit is due by Sept. 30, 2016, but until the 2014 audit can be rectified there is no clear starting point for the 2015 audit.

Jackie Green – Ms. Green read a statement regarding her life in Duncannon. She has been a resident for 18 years and she is a witness to the negative impact of the drug problem in her neighborhood. She can see that the presence of the Penn Township Police Department does make a difference.

Margie Safko – Ms. Safko asked if the PSP would patrol the streets and if there was a cost associated with PSP coverage.

Tim Auxt – Mr. Auxt asked if grant monies were included in the financial calculations presented.

Lisa Billman – Ms. Billman asked when negotiations are set to begin with Penn Township regarding the police services contract.

Derek Peters – Mr. Peters asked if the borough has considered going insolvent and joining Penn Township.

Betsy Kirkhoff – Mrs. Kirkhoff asked if Penn Township charged late payment fees.

Heather Audet – Ms. Audet asked if there was possible to have a second forester evaluate the Borough's natural resources.

Mr. Nace stated that the Nature Conservancy has been consulted to provide information that will be considered in addition to the information provided by Dennis Meiser, the forester the Borough has consulted in the past.

Mr. Leonhard asked Ms. Audet if she had considered running for a position on the Duncannon Borough Council. She stated that her employment with the Federal government prohibited her from holding and elected or appointed position.

Mr. Leonhard asked if the checks outstanding were recent or if there were a number that had been outstanding for an extended period of time. Mr. Morgan stated that the majority of the checks are recent and that the funds for any checks that are outdated should be escheated and would not return to the Borough accounts.

NEW BUSINESS

Reconsideration of Previously Approved Payment to Penn Township for Police Services –

A motion to pay Penn Township for Police services was made and passed at the July 19, 2016. A second motion was made and passed on July 19, 2016 to pay the \$42,290.00 to Penn Township for Police services from the Timber fund. This meeting was called to reconsider these motions.

Mr. Kirkhoff asked how things would be handled in the future regarding passed motions. He stated that a motion was made, seconded and passed and that this payment to the Penn Township Police should have been paid three weeks ago.

Mr. Nace stated that initially there was a signature lacking and asked Mrs. Kathy Bauer if that was correct. Mrs. Bauer stated that she did not sign the check however she is not the only signer available.

Mr. Croutharmel stated that he pulled the check on Monday, August 1, 2016 as he was under the impression that a special meeting would be held.

Mr. Kirkhoff does not feel it is appropriate for a council member to pull a check when the majority of council voted to it out.

Mrs. Betsy Kirkhoff also stated that it was inappropriate for the Public Safety Committee to make decisions regarding finances instead of bringing concerns to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Kirkhoff stated that the Finance Committee held a meeting on Thursday, August 4, 2016 and that they were told that the check had not been sent solely due to the fact that it had not been signed, financial reasons were not discussed. He stated that there are only three council members on the

Public Safety Committee and therefore it was a minority outvoting the majority who voted to make the police services payment.

Mr. Croutharmel said that he pulled the check after discussions with the Public Safety Committee along with another council member.

Mr. Kirkhoff stated the he has a problem with this action and that it sets a precedent. He stated that Mr. Croutharmel had no right to pull the check and the payment should have been made. He stated this sets a precedent that if a council member doesn't like something they can call a special meeting and if they don't want to pay something they don't have to pay it. Mr. Kirkhoff said this is the third special meeting in his four months on council.

A motion was made by Mr. Williams to maintain the previous passed motions to pay the third quarterly payment of \$42,290.00 to Penn Township for police services from the Timber Account. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kirkhoff.

Discussion - Prior to the vote Ms. Young asked for clarification as to whether the bills and the money that had already been transferred included the \$42,290.00 for the check to Penn Township. Mr. Morgan stated that this expenditure had been included in the analysis of the bank accounts that had been presented at the start of this meeting. She also inquired into the timeline for the contract discussions with Penn Township. Mr. Croutharmel stated that he had suspended discussions pending the outcome of tonight's meeting.

Mayor Conrad stated that we have accepted police services for a portion of the third quarter already and will be expected to pay regardless of the vote.

Mr. Kirkhoff added that in his time on the Finance Committee the majority of their time has been spent discussing the fee schedule. He stated that he has a degree in finance and yet he has not been provided requested financial information and has never been consulted when regarding financial issues. He feels that the Finance Committee needs to start planning ahead and be proactive in setting a balance for a starting point and keeping the accounts balanced from that number. Cost cutting measures should also be considered and determined.

The vote on the motion made and seconded to maintain the previous passed motions to pay the third quarterly payment of \$42,290.00 to Penn Township for Police services from the Timber account passed with a 5-2 roll call vote after discussion. Yes votes: Eppley, Leonhard, Williams, Kirkhoff, Young. No votes: Croutharmel, Nace.

Mr. Leonhard stated that he hoped that anyone who questioned his dedication and good will toward Duncannon came to realize throughout the meeting that he only wants the best for this town. He presented a check for \$10,000 to the Borough.

Mayor Conrad requested that the Mayors expenses be zeroed out in the budget for 2016.

Ms. Young stated that every member of council is required to be a resident of the Borough. She said they are all aware of the things that are happening in the community. She was the first responder to one of the drug fatalities and Mr. Croutharmel was the paramedic. She heard the word corruption

from the citizenry present and she offered to meet and converse with any and all members of the community who have concerns. She reiterated that financial difficulties the Borough now faces were not created by this Council but inherited by them and they are doing their best to address them and keep the Borough running.

Mr. Nace stated that it should be noted that the date on the evening's agenda was incorrect and should be August 8, 2016.

Mr. Williams exited the meeting at 7:35 to attend a previously scheduled Joint Operations Advisory Committee (JOAC) meeting.

Adjournment - The next regularly scheduled Borough Council Meeting is set for August 16, 2016 At 7:00PM. Mr. Croutharmel made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. on August 8, 2016. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kirkhoff and passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Bauer
Duncannon Borough Secretary