

Orwigsburg Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2017

Orwigsburg Borough Council met on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 in Council Chambers. President Buddy Touchinsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In attendance: President Buddy Touchinsky, Vice President Susan Murphy. Councilors: Angie Hoptak-Solga, Brian Baldwin, Paul Bedway, Michele Rudloff, Darle Cresswell; Mayor Barry Berger. Solicitor Paul Datte, Borough Manager Robert Williams and Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors: Bill Knecht of 204 S Warren St; Amy Marchiano of the Republican Herald; Darin Brensinger of 102 Station Rd; Mike Malewski of 115 Gerald Ave; Chief Stan Brozana; Sgt. John Koury; Janis McGowen of South Schuylkill News.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2016 and December 14, 2016 meetings as presented was made by Susan Murphy, second by Michele Rudloff. Unanimous.

The November 2016 Treasurer's report was presented to Council.

The December 2016 Tax Collector's report was presented to Council as follows:

	<u>December</u>
Real Estate	\$11,481.96
Per Capita	\$ 1,428.00
Occupation	\$ 506.22

A motion to exonerate the Tax Collector from collecting Occupation Tax on Tax Exoneration List #11 was made by Darle Cresswell, second by Susan Murphy. Unanimous.

Building Permits for December 2016:

- 0 – New Permits issued at \$00.00 total value
- 3 – Renovation permits issued at \$69,914.00 total value

Public Comment:

Darin Brensinger of 102 Station Rd was present on behalf of Boy Scouts/Boys Club to request Council's approval to use the acre of land behind the Orwigsburg Center (land given to the borough as recreation area) as a camping area for the scouts. Land was formerly owned by Ryon Realty currently owned by Bartush Signs. A number of years ago Council did agree to let the scouts use the land for camping. Boy Scout building on Independence St has undergone a major renovation and now they would like to put effort into the property behind the nursing home for

camping and possibly build a pavilion and storage shed. Darin has met with Felix Bartush and received his permission for the scouts to utilize his property for parking and a way to access this property since it is land locked by private property.

President Touchinsky noted we'll put on next month's work session agenda.

The Solicitor will identify the property and determine ownership. Requested a copy of the organization's Charter, IRS Determination letter and 990's for the last three years.

President Touchinsky called an Executive Session at 7:40 pm to discuss current litigation.

The Executive Session ended at 8:25 pm and the regular meeting continued.

Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program

Bob reviewed the program:

Previously utilized DCED & DCNR funding received from the Commonwealth for the project do not prohibit use of RCAP funds. Past grants are acceptable in the project; however, we cannot intermingle current funding.

The scope of the project will only include the completion of the Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Hall project

The published Veterans Memorial Taskforce completion budget is \$750,000. RCAP project requirements include prevailing wage and specific materials acquisitions sources. RCAP Guideline suggest a minimum grant amount of \$1,000,000.00. The RCAP Veterans Memorials Hall completion budget is projected to be \$1,000,000.00.

The initial submission is an effort to receive eligibility and completeness review from the Pennsylvania Office of Budget – Bureau of Revenue, Capitol & Debt. There will be a 30 day “public comment period” from receipt of our RCAP application until and award can be made. Once the initial review of all projects have been completed and the public comment period has closed, the Office of Budget will forward a complete listing of projects and summaries to the Administration for grant award consideration. All successful candidates will then be notified via an Award Letter. The Award Letter will serve as a written notification authorizing the preparation and submission to the Office of Budget of a Formal Application and Business Plan. We must then notify the Office of Budget within 30 days of receipt of our Award Letter as to whether or not we are accepting the Grant Award. If we agree to accept the grant, we will then have 6 months to submit the Formal Application and Business Plan to the Office of Budget for the drafting of the RCAP grant.

Sources of match funds can be local, private, land or building appraised value, and/or federal funds. The only non-cash, non-state match permitted are land or fixed assets, which have a substantial useful life and are directly related to the project. (Page 28 of a 44 page application process – council received a copy of this page).

The appraised value of the Orwigsburg Veterans Memorial Hall is \$2,101,373.00 in accordance with the Industrial Appraisal Company valuation report of August 7, 2016.

The Borough will utilize the Veterans Memorial Hall appraised value of 2 million plus dollars as the source of our local match.

The cost of the initial application is project to be less than \$3000.00. The total cost for the initial application, the formal Application, and the Business Plan, is projected to be less than a budgeted \$10,000.00 (Veterans Memorial).

There should not be an additional appraisal cost since our most recent appraisal is less than a year old.

The preceding is a proposed plan to receive a million dollar grant from the Commonwealth. The proposed local match is projected to be the Borough's equity in the building and the project. The only cost to the Borough is projected to be the application cost. Council and the Community will have multiple future opportunities, (more than six months), for review, comment, and additional authorization, (formal Application & Business Plan)

After a discussion on the building's appraisal being acceptable for the grant match and the current DCNR/DCED grants usage, the general consensus of Council is to move forward with the RCAP application process.

Committee Reports

Personnel & Negotiations

A motion to reappoint Chuck Ricketts to the Planning & Zoning Commission for a 5-year term, to reappoint John Boyer to the Blue Mountain Recreation Commission for a 4-year term, Rodney Schaeffer & Bill Bandholz to the Municipal Authority for 5-year terms, and Jeff Fanelli to the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Sue Murphy. Unanimous.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-01 authorizing .50 cents per hour pay increase for all part-time non-uniform employees, effective January 1, 2017 was made by Paul Bedway, second by Brian Baldwin. Unanimous.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-02 authorizing the Orwigsburg Fire Police to participate in and support all Borough and Community activities and events including but not limited to, all scheduled and non-scheduled, emergency, and non-emergency, Borough and Community activities in 2017 was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Sue Murphy. Unanimous.

A motion to authorize the Borough Staff to commence activities to support the application of the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grant for 2017 requesting payment for 75% of the salary and benefits of an additional Police Officer for a period of 3 years was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

A motion to authorize the Ragnar Relay Race on June 2 & 3, 2017 utilizing South Liberty Street, Market Street, Lawrence Street and Red Dale Road with an Exchange Point at Blue Mountain Elementary and Middle School was made by Susan Murphy, second by Michele Rudloff. Unanimous.

A motion to establish the following as the 2017 Schedule of Events:

Easter Egg Hunt	April 8 th @ Noon
Fishing Rodeo	May TBA @ 9 AM
Memorial Day Parade	May 29 th @ 8 AM
Heritage Day	Sept 9 th @ 9 AM to 4 PM
Halloween Parade	October 25 th @ 7 AM
Trick or Treat	October 31 st @ 6 PM to 8 PM
Festival of Lights	December 2 nd @ 4:30 PM

Motion made by Susan Murphy, second by Michele Rudloff. Unanimous.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-03 sanctioning the Friendship Hose Fire Company 2017 events and activities was made by Susan Murphy, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

Planning & Zoning

A motion to release the Bond for the Dollar General project as recommended by Engineer Greg Stewart in accordance with his letter of December 22, 2016 was made by Paul Bedway, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-04 appointing Thomas Yashinsky of the ARRO Group as the Building Code Official and the Zoning Enforcement Officer in addition to establishing the 2017 UCC Permit Fee Schedule was made by Paul Bedway, second by Susan Murphy. Brian Baldwin abstained due to his employer offers the same services. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-05 appointing Christopher Bentz of Benesch Engineers as the Borough Planning Engineer & Consultant was made by Paul Bedway, second by Michele Rudloff. Brian Baldwin abstained due to his employment with Alfred Benesch. Motion carried.

Water, Sewer, & Sanitation

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-06 appointing Bryon Killian of Entech Engineering as the Borough Water & Sewer Engineer was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Paul Bedway. Brian Baldwin abstained due to his employer offers the same services. Motion carried.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-07 appointing Bill McMullen of the ARRO Group as the Sewage Enforcement Officer and establishing the 2017 Sewage Enforcement Fee Schedule was mad by Michele Rudloff, second by Darle Cresswell. Brian Baldwin abstained due to his employer offers the same services. Motion carried.

Finance

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-08 authorizing an agreement with the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Board to provide a Police Pension Plan to our Officers and waive member contributions and fees was made by Paul Bedway, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

A motion for the authorization to submit names of Delinquent Taxpayers as received from the Tax Collector to Berkheimer for collection in 2017 was made by Paul Bedway, second by Michele Rudloff. Unanimous.

A motion for the authorization of the Finance Chairman or Borough Manager to transfer funds as required during Fiscal Year 2017 was made by Paul Bedway, second by Susan Murphy. Unanimous.

A motion for the authorization of a Budget Modification for the allocation of funds to hire the new Police Officer effective March 1, 2017. Specifically to transfer \$10,000 from Police Overtime and \$5,000 from Police Part-Time to Police Full Time funding allocation. Police Overtime was originally allocated \$20,000 and Police Part-Time originally allocated \$15,000. Motion was made by Paul Bedway, second by Michele Rudloff. Unanimous.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-09 adjusting UCC Permit Fee Schedule, including an administration fee of 15%, as submitted and recommended by the Building Code Officer, Tom Yashinsky was made by Paul Bedway, second by Michele Rudloff. Unanimous.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-10 adjusting the cost of an application the Zoning Hearing Board to \$600 for Single-Unit Residential and \$1500 for Commercial and Multi-Unit applications was made by Paul Bedway, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2017-11 appointing Robert Williams as Delegate, Buddy Touchinsky as Alternate Delegate, and Larry Padora as Second Alternate Delegate to the Schuylkill County Tax Collection Committee for 2017 was made by Paul Bedway, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

New Business

President Touchinsky noted:

- Veterans Memorial Task Force Special Public Meeting will be held on Monday, January 16, 2017 at 7 PM at Veterans Memorial Hall to discuss the \$50,000 DCED grant.
- The Civil Service Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 7 PM at Borough Hall to review and authorize the 2017 Police Hiring List

COG

Councilor Murphy noted the next COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 7 PM in Council Chambers.

Fire – None

Police

Mayor Berger thanked Council for resuming the process of hiring the new Police Officer.

Sergeant Koury received the following quotes for items requested at last week's meeting:

Exterior Door – Victor Muncy - \$3532.00

- Steel Door – primed – will need to be painted
- Steel Frame
- Hinges
- Lock
- Closure
- Threshold weather-strip
- Installation

Shower Stall - \$2500 plus installation – to be located in the second floor bathroom

Video camera for 2013 Taurus - \$5500

Bob noted funding for the shower and door can be taken from the Capital Improvement Fund.

A motion to approve the Exterior Door from Victor Muncy at a cost of \$3532.00 to be funded through the Capital Improvement Fund was made by Brian Baldwin, second by Darle Cresswell. Unanimous.

Correspondence – None

Bills

A motion to approve and ratify the Accounts Payable for General, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, State, Grant, Credit Union and Capital Improvements accounts was made by Michele Rudloff, second by Susan Murphy. Unanimous.

Bill Knecht asked for a public statement as to the purpose of the Executive Session and what was discussed.

Solicitor Datte responded all four matters are in litigation:

- Pine Creek Retirement Community – currently a subject of the Court of Common Pleas

- Blue Mountain Retirement Community – subject to the Zoning Hearing Board, case is still pending
- Villas of Orwigsburg – subject to a mandamus action – suit filed in the Court of Common Pleas
- Sopko/SCMA – litigation pending in the Court of Common Pleas

Bob updated Council and the Community on the borough's actions taken due to the weather last evening into this morning. Bob had a meeting with the staff earlier in the afternoon to discuss a plan for the evening and morning. Officer Zimmerman was on duty until midnight, Officer Bayer came on duty at 4:00 am. The borough crew salted until 2:30 am. Twice as much salt was used last night than was used with winter storm Jonas. Temperatures were forecasted to increase thru the night. A cold band of temperatures came through and froze over the ground. The borough crew came in this morning and started salting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Edwards
Borough Secretary