

**Orwigsburg Borough Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2018**

The Orwigsburg Borough Council met on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 in Council Chambers. President Michele Rudloff called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance: President Michele Rudloff; Vice President Susan Murphy; Councilors Paul Bedway, Angie Hoptak-Solga, Katie Bedway, Rod Schaeffer, Brian Baldwin. Mayor Barry Berger, Solicitor Paul Datte, Borough Manager Robert Williams and Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors: Bill Knecht of 204 S Warren St; Rick Bubeck of 415 Marshall Dr; Kay & John Jones of 110 W Market St; Fire Chief Jesse Zimmerman; Janis McGowen of SSN; Chief John Koury; Tania Gerber of 1015 Ridgeview Dr; Athena Kukta of 345 Ridge Rd; Carol Lutsey of 335 Ridge Rd.

**Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2018 and August 8, 2018 meeting as presented was made by Sue Murphy, second by Katie Bedway. Unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report**

The July 2018 Treasurer's Report was presented to Council.

**Tax Collector's Report**

The Tax Collector's Report for August was presented to Council as follows:

Real Estate	\$8,182.14
Per Capita	\$270.20
Occupation	\$89.15

**Tax Exoneration List**

A motion to approve Tax Exoneration List #8 was made by Sue Murphy, second by Angie Hoptak-Solga. Unanimous.

**Building Permit**

- 0 New Permit issued at \$00.00 total value
- 8 Renovation Permits issued at \$120,600.00

Bill Knecht of 204 S. Warren St asked if there was a significant renovation - *Cigar Box renovation \$75,000*

## **Veterans Community Memorial Hall**

The Borough was notified yesterday that our RACP grant for \$750,000.00 was approved. Grant is to complete renovations at the Veterans Community Memorial Hall. Thanks to Rep. Jerry Knowles, Rep. Neil Goodman, Rep. Mike Tobash, Senator Dave Argall and Governor Tom Wolf.

Approval of this grant was truly a collaborative team effort. Grant is a draw down process – money expended then reimbursed. Master plan will need to be submitted again. A match was required, the building's equity was used for the match.

## **Public Comment #1 Agenda Items Only**

Athena Kukta of 345 Ridge Rd – last month she addressed Council about 24/7 police coverage. Twice she had someone knock on her door at 1 am. Both times there was no police officer on duty. The first incident the state police didn't show up but they did call her. The second time the State Police did show up. It was determined she was a victim of a computer crime. She has since installed cameras around her house along with an alarm system. She thanked the Orwigsburg Police Dept for their support. She is present tonight to see where the Borough stands with hiring an additional officer.

Council did approve the Civil Service Commission to establish a candidate list. Application were due by September 7<sup>th</sup>. Civil Service meets on September 27<sup>th</sup>, a date will be set for the written exam, then the agility test followed by oral interviews. Next month begins the budget process which will be driving a lot of the discussion.

Chief Koury stated our goal is to have a true 24/7 department. People have told the department they want 24/7 police coverage.

Kay Jones of 110 W Market St pointed out they spent all last summer and fall on the Great Orwigsburg survey and 66% of the people that responded felt that borough council should assure 24/7 police protection through a tax increase. That is the people speaking to you (Council).

Sue – how many 377 people responded

Bill Knecht 204 S Warren St in the interim until there can be 24/7 coverage consider assuring overnight hours are covered opposed to having daytime coverage. Since overnight hours are the worst time for the safety of our residents.

Chief Koury – we are busy during the day if not busier, we cannot eliminate coverage during the daytime hours. There are two schools to consider with 1200 children. Twenty-one years ago DCED did a survey and the results were in order to run a 24/7 department you need 6 officers and a Chief. I have been scheduling overtime to cover night shift hours.

Bill Knecht asked if the other parties signed off on the Sopko agreement?

*Solicitor Datte responded yes it happened this evening.*

When all the documents have been completed will they be available to the public?

*Yes, submit a Right to Know request.*

**Old Business**

**Solicitors Report – Paul Datte**

1. Pine Creek Retirement Community – he reported last month that briefs have been filed. Rhodes Organization is moving the matters forward. Rhodes requested oral argument before the judge but has not been scheduled yet.
2. Blue Mountain Retirement Community – Appeal from the Zoning Hearing Board. briefs have been filed for over a year. Rhodes Organization has requested oral argument in front of a judge. Rhoads Organization requested oral argument and will be heard by Judge Domalakas on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Rhodes Organization has challenged the engineering fees of the borough in respect to reviewing both plans, they have requested arbitration under the Municipalities Planning Code (MPC). Need to select an engineer as an arbitrator, our engineer recommended Great Valley Associates located in Wyomissing. Recommendation has been conveyed to the Rhodes Organization but haven't heard anything back.

3. Villas of Orwigsburg - case is sitting – will move forward when the developer decides to do so. Position of the borough remains unchanged until there is a further order from the courts.
4. Sopko/SCMA – Cases have to be discontinued by the attorneys. Easement document needs to be recorded. Principal settlement and payment will be wrapped up within the next few days.

**Committee Reports**

**Streets, Lights & Buildings**

A motion to approve Payment #2 to Dutchman Contracting LLC, in the amount of \$20,689.10 in accordance with the review and recommendation of Arro Engineering for the construction of the Borough Garage was made by Sue Murphy, second by Paul Bedway. Unanimous.

**Finance**

A motion to approve the following from the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System for the 2019 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) was made by Paul Bedway, second by Sue Murphy. Unanimous.

State Aid	\$82,113.00
Borough's Obligation	\$52,514.00
PMRS Admin Fee	<u>\$ 360.00</u>
Total	\$134,987.00

**New Business - None**

**Police Department Report**

The August 2018 Police Report is attached to minutes.

Chief Koury noted I do support a 24/7 professional Police Department like the people have told the Borough they want. Its up to council to listen to the people and what they want. We need trained professionals 24/7. I don't see people here against raising taxes. Elected officials need to do what the people want.

President Rudloff responded Council needs to make decisions about streets, storm water systems that are failing; aging water and sewer system; not just a decision about police. There have been numerous residents contacting the borough about flooding and the condition of their streets. We cannot continue to allow systems to malfunction and do nothing about it. We're at a crossroad with tuff decisions to make. Multiple issues need to be addressed in this budget; what can the police department do to meet Council ½ way.

Budget committee will be meeting in the near future.

Rod Schaeffer mentioned back in April's meeting Matt Baran from the Authority suggested raising the sewer rate \$7.00 per quarter to be used for capital improvements. Keep this in mind during the budget process.

Angie Hoptak-Solga asked Council to consider increasing the annual Senior Citizens donation from \$750.00 to \$1,000.00.

Bob noted he spoke with the President of the Senior Citizens and they will be meeting at Memorial Bldg. on Tuesdays at no charge and line item for their donation will be increased to \$1000.00.

**Fire Company Report**

Fire Chief Jesse Zimmerman presented the August report:

23 Calls for the month of August  
150 Calls Year to Date  
148 Man hours on responses  
    17.44 hours – East Brunswick Twp  
    1.40 hours – North Manheim Twp  
    16.23 hours – West Brunswick Twp  
    34.22 hours – Orwigsburg Borough  
754.11 Man hours on responses year to date  
Over 500 hours of training completed

**COG**

The next COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018, 7:00 PM at Borough Hall in Council Chambers. A representative from St Lukes Hospital will be present to give a virtual tour of the new hospital.

### **Community Activities/Events**

Orwigsburg Lions Club Halloween Parade is scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 7:00 PM.  
Rain Date October 25, 2018

Trick or Treat will be held on Wednesday, October 31, 2018 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

### **Civil Service Commission**

Rescheduled September Meeting Date - Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers

### **Correspondence**

Letter received from Sud & Anju Patel of Clark Drive thanking Borough Council for the improvements to Clark Drive was read.

An e-mail from Bill Knecht suggesting night time shift coverage should be the priority over day time shift coverage was read.

Both letters are attached to minutes.

### **Bills**

A motion to approve and ratify the accounts payable for General, Water, Sewer, Sanitation, State, Grant, Credit Union, and Capitol Improvement accounts was made by Sue Murphy, second by Brian Baldwin. Unanimous.

### **Public Comment #2**

Taunia Gerber of 1015 Ridgeview Dr asked what the cost is for OT compared to the cost of another officer. She is not against a tax increase if she sees services in return.

Costs about \$100,000 for another officer, Overtime is not nearly that much.

Councilor Bedway noted when the Ridgeview Development went in the borough received a lot of revenue. There hasn't been any development like that since.

Bill Knecht of 204 S Warren St asked who are the member of the Budget Committee?  
Councilors Paul Bedway, Brian Baldwin and Rod Schaeffer

Carol Lutsey of 335 Ridge Rd asked if the borough would make money from the Retirement Community.

Solicitor Datte responded no necessarily, it would depend on how the development would be

structured. If it is owned units then we would receive transfer tax when ownership would change but if leased units the borough wouldn't receive anything. If divided into lots and developed we would receive transfer tax, EIT tax. If limited to retired seniors than no EIT tax.

Anthea Kukta of 345 Ridge Rd asked if we ever considered regionalizing the Police Department – Michele responded the conversation has occurred, the municipalities would not be willing to put costs behind it. They have no cost now being covered by State Police.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Edwards  
Borough Secretary

**Calls for Service - by UCR Code**

Incidents Reported Between 08/01/2018 and 08/31/2018

All Municipalities



Code	Description	Primary Count	Secondary UCR Count		
			Code 2	Code 3	Code 4
0591	CIVIL COMPLAINT	4			
0617	THEFT-\$200 & OVER-FROM BUILDINGS	1			
0627	THEFT-\$50 TO \$200-FROM BUILDINGS	1			
1130	FLIM FLAM	1			
1440	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - ALL OTHER	1			
1844	NARCOTICS-USE-OTHER DANGEROUS	1			
1890	NARCOTICS - REPORTS	2			
1891	DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS	0	3		
2110	DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE-LIQUOR/DRUGS	1			
2111	DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE - ALCOHOL	1			
2211	LIQUOR LAW-UNDERAGE-PURCH,CONSMP,POSSES	1			
2300	PUBLIC DRUNKENESS	1			
2440	DISORDERLY CONDUCT-DISTURBING THE PEACE	2			
2450	HARASSMENT	1			
2460	DISORDERLY CONDUCT-OBSCENE LANGUAGE	1			
2490	DISORDERLY CONDUCT-REPORTS	1			
2626	FALSE FIRE ALARM	1			
2627	FALSE ALARM	3			
2628	ALL OTHERS-IMPERSONATE POLICE OFFICER	1			
2639	ALL OTHERS - SANITATION(ORDINANCE VIO.)	1			
2647	ALL OTHERS - PROTECTIVE ORDERS	2			
2800	BOROUGH ORD. SOLICITING	1			
2801	BOROUGH ORD. WEEDS	1			
2805	BOROUGH ORD. GARBAGE	4			
2810	BOROUGH ORD-ABANDONED VEHICLE	1			
2830	BOROUGH ORD-ALL OTHER	1			
3000	FOUND/RECOVERED PROPERTY	1			
3400	MENTAL HEALTH	1			
3500	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	6			
3502	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	11			
3600	DISTURBANCES-DOMESTIC	2			
3620	DISTURBANCES-OTHER (FIGHTS,DISPUTES,ETC)	1			
3710	WARRANTS-OUTSIDE AGENCY-SERVICE	1			
3800	MISCELLANEOUS	4			
3810	ALARMS-UNFOUNDED-EXCPT FIRE	5			
3840	FIRES (INCLUDING ALARMS-FOUNDED/UNFOUND)	2			
3860	VEHICLE LOCKOUT	1			
3900	TRAFFIC & PARKING PROBLEMS	2			
4004	ACCIDENT- NON REPORTABLE	3			
4010	TRAFFIC OFFENSES	3			
4014	INVESTIGATE OPEN DOOR / WINDOW	1			
4020	SUSPICIOUS AUTO	1			
4022	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	3			
4026	WIRES AND POLES DOWN	2			
5000	DRUG SURVEILLANCE	3			
5002	LOST & FOUND - FOUND ANIMAL	1			
5004	LOST & FOUND - FOUND ARTICLES	2			
5506	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - STRAY ANIMALS	3			

September 04, 2018

# Calls for Service - by UCR Code

Incidents Reported Between 08/01/2018 and 08/31/2018

All Municipalities



Code	Description	Primary Count	Secondary UCR Count		
			Code 2	Code 3	Code 4
5510	ANIMAL COMPLAINTS - OTHER	2			
6606	TRAFFIC RELATED - DISMOUNTED POSTS	1			
6614	TRAFFIC RELATED - OTHER TRAFFIC	1			
7004	BUILDING CHECKS - VACATION,VACANT HOME	4			
7006	VEHICLE LOCK OUT	3			
7502	ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES - FIRE DEPT.	1			
7504	ASSIST OTHER AGENCIES - OTHER POLICE	12			
7506	ASSISTING OTHER AGENCIES - STATE POLICE	2			
7590	ASSISTING OTHER AGENCIES - REPORTS	4			
8010	WARRANTS - LOCAL - CRIMINAL	2			
8090	WARRANTS - LOCAL - REPORTS	4			
8590	DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES - REPORTS	2			
8600	DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES - CARSEAT CHECK	1			
8610	PARKING TICKET ENFORCEMENT	2			
9002	ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES	1			
9022	AMBULANCE ASSIST	19			
9023	STATE POLICE ASSIST	1			
9024	911 HANG UP CALL	1			
9026	SERVICE CALL-WELFARE CHECK RESIDENT	2			
ABAN	ABANDONED VEHICLE	2			
CITT	TRAFFIC CITATION	33			
CITW	WARNING	63			
CUST	CUSTODY PROBLEM	2			
DTB	DRUG TAKE BACK	6			
INFO	INFORMATION	12			
PERM	MISCELLANEOUS PERSON	1			
PRM	DUMPSTER PERMIT	2			
SUBP	SUBPOENA	1			
<b>Total Calls</b>		<b>282</b>			