

**Mercersburg Borough Council Joint Meeting
with the Mercersburg Water Authority and Mercersburg Sewer Authority
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
July 24, 2017
MINUTES**

Attending Borough Council Members: President Tom Suddeth, Vice-President Jeff Main, Amy Burkot, Catalin Bonciu, and Jonathan Kittredge - **Absent Borough Council Members:** Mayor Defibaugh, Donald Stoner, and Lisa McCoy

Attending Water Authority Members: Chairman Ed Twine - **Absent Water Authority Members:** Vice-Chair Jason Frey, Treasurer Larry Nair, Doug Hoffman, and Gregg Davis

Attending Sewer Authority Members: Chairman Dan Chayes, Vice-Chair Jim Malone, John Rose, Catalin Bonciu, and Jonathan Kittredge - **Absent Sewer Authority Members:** None

Other Attendees: Borough Manger Dawn Scheller, Assistant Borough Manager Derek Stoy, and Solicitor Simon Gemerek- **Absent:** Borough Engineer

Guests/Press: Please see sign-in sheet

President Suddeth called the meeting to order and asked Vice-President Main to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. He then opened the floor for Public Comments.

Pete Lagiovane was present to answer any questions on the information that was provided to Borough Council on supporting legislation to create an independent redistricting commission. Pete reviewed that he is supportive of Fair Districts PA as he feels that gerrymandering it is a crime against our democracy. He reviewed that he has the support of Representative Paul Schemel and Representative Rob Kauffman are supportive of this. He asked that Mercersburg Borough join Chambersburg and Greencastle supporting this initiative.

Jim Taylor spoke about the presentation that he heard at the July 10, 2017 Borough Council Meeting and provided counter argument to the presentation made by Pete Lagiovane. Jim Taylor stated that the claim that this is a bipartisan effort is simply not true. Jim Taylor stated that this is almost an entirely democratic effort. Jim Taylor reviewed that he spoke with some of the representatives that have supported this and he was told the reason they did was that they have been harassed. Jim Taylor noted recent events and independent studies completed by Yale University and UCLA that was completed and that counters Fair Districts PA's claims. Jim Taylor asked that Borough Council not get involved in a clearly partisan effort. Amy Burkot asked that Jim provide the information to the office.

MOTION: to table the proposed Fair Districts PA Resolution was made by Amy Burkot, second by Catalin Bonciu, Pete Lagiovane asked if he could have an opportunity to counter Jim Taylor's comments, Council Member Kittredge stated that they could discuss the matter between themselves in the hallway as a discussion between gallery members was not appropriate at this time, President Suddeth reviewed that a motion that was seconded was on the floor, a vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

The matter was tabled.

MOTION: to approve the Joint Equipment Fund to renew the Borough's JDLINK subscription on the 310 K Backhoe for a total of \$600 for one year was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Catalin Bonciu reviewed the notes from the Finance Committee. He reviewed that the Borough will start the 2018 Budget process in August with a deficit of approximately \$20,000. It was noted that the Mayor received a request from the Tuscarora School District regarding an increase of salary paid to the crossing guards which they wished the Borough to pay 50% of. That item would be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

The HARB Meeting Notes were reviewed with one recommendation that Borough Council approve the amended HARB Application COA: 2017-07-01 allowing the property owner to remove the current 25' wood fence as proposed and replace it with a 6' high wood framed wall with stucco veneer on both sides with a straight line profile top noting the HARB approval recommendation is due to the low visibility of the wall and the approval of this design does not set a precedent for future work that may be proposed.

MOTION: to approve the amended HARB Application COA: 2017-07-01 allowing the property owner to remove the current 25' wood fence as proposed and replace it with a 6' high wood framed wall with stucco veneer on both sides with a straight line profile top noting the HARB approval recommendation is due to the low visibility of the wall and the approval of this design, but that it does set a precedent for future work was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Jonathan Kittredge, both agreed that the 'does not set a precedent' should be removed from the recommended motion by HARB, a vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Jeff Main reviewed the information from the Personnel Committee Meeting which included a few recommendations from the Committee.

MOTION: that the Borough Manager begin the budget process using the same figures as last year for the Non-Uniformed Employees of 1.5% COLA and 1.5% Merit increase with scores higher than and 85% and to follow the CBA Agreement for the Uniformed Employees was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Amy Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to accept the resignation of Donald Shaffer Jr as of Monday, July 17, 2017 was made by Catalin Bonciu, second by Amy Burkot, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to approve the Manager to advertise seeking a Full-Time Public Works Department Employee was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Catalin Bonciu, Jonathan Kittredge asked why Dawn couldn't just hire someone, it was noted of recent changed to the Manger's Ordinance updated that it requires a motion by Council to hire employees, a vote was taken all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to enter executive session at 7:22 pm for Personnel Matters with possible action to be taken was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

Water and Sewer Authority Members were asked to participate in executive session. Derek Stoy was asked to not participate in executive session.

Regular session resumed at 8:22 pm with the following action taken.

MOTION: to offer Donald Shaffer Sr. the opportunity to resign and retire or be terminated on July 25, 2017 was made by Jeff Main, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

A review of the upcoming meeting schedule was completed.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:23 pm was made by Jonathan Kittredge, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes have been transcribed and respectfully submitted by Dawn Scheller, Borough Manager, with the use of her meeting notes and audio recording for approval.

Date approved: _____ Motion: _____ Second: _____

