

**COOPERSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**January 15, 2013**

The meeting of the Coopersburg Borough Council was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013, in Council Chambers at Borough Hall. The meeting was called to order by Council President Felch at 7:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies consisted of the Pledge of Allegiance and an introduction of Arcadia Hewins (Junior Council Person).

Roll call was taken by Manager Paashaus. Also present were Council Members Minarik, Balascak, Greenland, Lundy, Nalichowski, Solicitor Gittinger, Engineer Erdman, and Police Chief Trexler. Mayor Mack and Council Member Walters were absent.

Motion made by Minarik and seconded by Lundy to adopt the Agenda without alterations, **Approved by a vote of 6-0.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No Public Comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved Council Minutes of December 18, 2012, and Received the Financial Reports through December 31, 2012: **Motion made by Balascak and seconded by Minarik, Approved by a vote of 6-0.**

**ROUTINE REPORTS**

Routine reports received: Police (Copy in Official Record).

**ACTION ITEMS**

No Action Items

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

1. Infrastructure
  - a. Council Member Balascak reported that the committee met on January 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2013 Infrastructure Projects. Balascak, Greenland, Erdman, Highway Superintendent Nace, and Water Superintendent Snyder were present at the January 8<sup>th</sup> committee meeting. The Committee Recommended the following 2013 Projects:
    1. Participate in the Municipal Authorities water metering program. Allowing Public Works Employees to assist in residential meter installation. There was further discussion around making the most of the opportunity of entrance to residences to educate the resident and double check for I&I issues. Balascak requested that photo identification be provided for the Public Works employees.
    2. Repair 12 Top-hats on 9<sup>th</sup> Street at a cost of approximately \$28,000.00. This repair would be the I&I project for 2013.
    3. Improving E Landis Street in a two part project. First the construction of a storm sewer from Rt 309 east to the Borough Boundary for 945 feet, at a cost of approximately

\$30,000. The storm sewer would include the installation of cross pipes for eight (8) inlets. Then the next step would be the reconstruction of the intersection and traffic light loop at Rt 309. The final part of this project will be the rebuilding of the entire street from Rt 309 heading east to the Borough border with a scratch coat and Oil & Chipping process. The road work will be at an approximate cost of \$25,375. The reconstruction will include the use of asphalt curbing along the edge of the road. There was further discussion regarding the cost and how much money could be taken from the Liquid Fuels account. The majority of cost will be taken from Liquid Fuels with a minor amount coming from the General Fund Budget.

- b. Council Member Balascak reported that the Water Consumption Report for the Moratorium properties was included in the Council Packets. There was discussion regarding the possibility of eliminating this report and monitoring due to the recent Settlement Agreement. Erdman stated that it could be possible to eliminate if a mutual agreement was made with the township to discontinue the monitoring procedure. There was further discussion regarding new businesses needing to be monitored. Erdman stated that new businesses would not need to be monitored if an available EDU was purchased. Balascak gave an explanation of EDU's and the moratorium for Hewins' benefit.

## 2. Public Safety

- a. Police Chief Trexler reported that police car "502" was unexpectedly out of service. The costs for repair would be more than \$5,000 in parts and labor. The police have three (3) vehicles still in service. There was discussion regarding the requirements for a replacement vehicle. A Motion was made by Greenland and seconded by Minarik to designate \$5,000 above the 2012 Contribution and 2013 Budget. There was discussion regarding the cost and benefit of buying a new vehicle rather than used. An Amendment to the Motion was made by Lundy and seconded by Balascak to increase the amount of \$5,000 to the amount of \$10,000 in the main motion. **The Amendment carried by a vote of 6-0. The Motion to designate \$10,000 above the 2013 Budget to purchase a police cruiser was passed by a vote of 6-0.**

## 3. Government Relations

- a. Council Member Nalichowski reported that there would be no MECAB meeting this month, and letters requesting dues and information would be sent out soon.

## 4. Administration and Finance

- a. No Report

## **REPORTS OF PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS**

1. Solicitor: Solicitor Gittinger reported on the following three (3) issues.
  - a. A Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeal has been assigned to a Judge and will be ruled on shortly. All other appeals filed last year have been held.
  - b. Two (2) pending dog ordinance violations were before a judge last week. The defendant appeared late, and the judge ruled that all fines would stand.
  - c. The former Borough Manager was scheduled for a court appearance on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The defendant's attorney was 1.5 hours late and unprepared. There was no plea made, and the case was rescheduled for January 22, 2012.

2. Engineer: Nothing to Report
3. Borough Manager: Manager Paashaus reported that the Auditor was scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup> to begin the financial audit for 2012. All municipal reports and forms were up to date with the County and State, including Liquid Fuels. Paashaus gave a municipal update for the Chamber with Lower Milford and Upper Saucon. Paashaus also stated that there are nine (9) total positions for the upcoming election that affect the Borough directly, including four (4) Council Member positions and one (1) mayor position.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Rails to Trails will remain on the Agenda
2. Consolidation of the Compost Site will remain on the Agenda
3. Ambulance Building will remain on the Agenda

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Council President Felch opened a discussion regarding the future of the Pinebrook Property, located at the south end of the Borough. Felch stated that the discussion needed to stay under ten (10) minutes. There was discussion regarding the potential of assisting the owner with development, property maintenance violations, blighted building designation, and the potential of exercising eminent domain. Felch stated that the property needs to be high on the priority list to resolve. The property is currently owned in part by two (2) people and listed for \$800,000. The County reassessed value is around \$594,000. The Council recognized the potential for high costs involved with ownership, purchase, or development. Hewins stated that it would be a great location for a community center or gym. There was further discussion around the potential of Development Grants, the zoning requirements, and the length of time the property has been vacant. The next steps would be to organize different options with estimated costs and a timeframe for improvement or change. Felch thanked all members for their contributions to the discussion.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Balascak made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Greenland. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

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Timothy Paashaus – Borough Manager

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John Felch, Jr. – Council President