

Summit Hill Borough Council
July 27, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Borough Hall

The regular scheduled meeting of the Summit Hill Borough Council was held at the above time and place with President Michael Kokinda presiding.

Roll Call – President Mike Kokinda, Vice President John O’Gurek, Michael Alabovitz, Bill Chapman, Jesse Walck, William O’Gurek, Solicitor Michel Greek and Mayor Paul McArdle were all in attendance. Greg Kosciolek was absent.

Minutes – **Motion was made by John O’Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2015 meeting.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Floor –

1. Edward Kruczek, 407 West Ludlow Street, explained that he called the office and talked to Kira about the base of the hill behind his house. He said every time it rains heavy the road behind the 300-400 blocks of West Ludlow Street get worse. They had people there a few years back and they did some digging but it needs to be dug deeper to keep the water from coming up to the houses. Kira stated that she has been trying to reach someone but doesn't know if she has the right phone number. Chief Fittos said he has a list of contacts that he will give her. Kira said that once she gets the list from the Chief, she will make some phone calls to have it addressed.
2. Audrin Miller, 336 East Fell Street, said he would like to address the parking issue in the 300 block of East Richards Alley. Parking is an issue and no one will move when asked. There were several incidents where people have called him vulgarities when asked to move their vehicles. He added that the other block of Richards Alley is a no parking alley and he can't see why his block can't be made a no parking street as well. Chief Fittos stated that is has already been addressed at the last meeting and he was checking to see if there was an ordinance in place for this particular block. There is not so an ordinance needs to be drafted to address this issue. Kira Steber said that Roobhenn Smith is at the meeting tonight to address the same issue. Roobhenn said that he was wondering if he could have the rights to the basketball courts so that they can make a parking area for people to park during the games. John O’Gurek said he doesn't see why he could make it a parking lot, the basketball and tennis courts are useless and no one uses them anyway. Michael Alabovitz stated that the courts do not get used because of the condition of them. They were built for the purpose of recreation. O’Gurek said then we should fix them. Alabovitz said that would be up to the Recreation Commission.
3. Roobhenn Smith, President of the Summit Hill Little League, said they have had a lot of games at the field in Summit Hill during the course of the season. He does not want to inconvenience anyone with the parking issues and would like to maintain the entire playground area as well as the basketball and tennis courts by trying to get some areas for parking where parking is needed and to hopefully get some funds in to put additional recreation things back into the playground area. Smith added that he personally would like to see some of the space used for a T-ball field so they can have the league right there. Michael Alabovitz said when he was a kid people didn't park in the alley, they would park down by the pump house and the courts. Mike Kokinda added that part of the issue is that years ago everyone was from town and kids and parents would walk to the field. Now everyone drives and the teams are from out of town. Alabovitz stated that the baseball season is much longer then it use to be; they now go into fall. Smith explained that the games go from mid April to late July or August, with a short break and then they have fall ball. John O’Gurek added that people are parking all over Lehigh Street too and are parking in front of people's driveways. They aren't parking close but just far enough to not allow another car to fit in between. Alabovitz suggested angle parking along Spruce Street. You can cut back the grass and curb to make parking in that area. There is no need for all that extra

space at the concession stand. Roobhenn stated that they do not want to cause an issue to the resident and he would like to keep recreation there too. O'Gurek said the Borough has an agreement with the Little League about cutting the grass and taking care of that property a few years ago. He doesn't see why the Borough couldn't let them have control of the whole thing. Kira Steber asked Smith if it would be possible to announce that there is no parking allowed in that area before each game. Smith stated that they just recently installed a P.A. system because of the construction they had no building there to install one. Audrin Miller said the problem is not during the Anthracite games, it is when they have the district games and people are coming from out of town. Kokinda said then to answer Mr. Miller's question, nothing will be able to be done quickly because it will have to be done by ordinance and we are looking at another month. Smith added that the game coming up would be the last one for the summer league. Fall baseball will start again in September after Labor Day. Alabovitz stated that it is a problem you can't get a delivery truck, let alone an emergency vehicle, down that alley when all the cars are there. O'Gurek said that he just had the workers go down and repaint the no parking lines that were paved over. Smith added that if they would be able to take over the whole area, they would not take any of the swings down and would like to build it back up and take care of the grass. Kira Steber asked Roobhenn to get in touch with Jodi McAndrew, the president of the Recreation Commission, to discuss what plans they may have for that playground and to discuss the Little League taking over the whole area. **Motion was made by Michael Alabovitz and second by Bill Chapman to have Solicitor Greek draft an ordinance to make the 300 block of East Richards Avenue no parking.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. William O'Gurek opposed.

4. Chief Fittos asked Council if they ever considered painting lines on the streets to help with the parking issues. Mike Kokinda said that is definitely something that we need to think about.
5. Karen Ruzicka, West White Street, asked if anything has been scheduled for the electronic recycling. Kira Steber explained that she is still waiting to hear back from Tamaqua Transfer about it. They do not have anywhere locally that they can take the electronics so they have to haul it out of state. She asked three months ago and is still waiting for a date. Karen also mentioned the line painting. She said she spoke with John O'Gurek about this and thinks it is needed because people are taking up too two parking spaces and are not being courteous to their neighbors. She added that Lansford does it. John O'Gurek agreed that it would be a good idea especially on the street in the center of town.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Paul McArdle reported receiving three checks from the District Justice for the month of June 2015 in the total of \$298.60. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Mayors report for the month of June 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Police Report – Chief Fittos read his police report and stated that a resignation letter was received from Officer Conarty effective June 28, 2015. He also received a quote from Kovatch for a 2015 Interceptor; as asked by Council at the last meeting. He added that the air conditioning in the 2007 Crown Vic doesn't even work anymore. The quote shows the first payment would not be due until next year. He also gave a quote to replace the computers in the Police Department in the amount of \$2,800.00. Michael Alabovitz asked where we are with the finances. Kira Steber said there is money set aside in other funds for things like this. **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by John O'Gurek to purchase computers for the Police Department in the amount of \$2,800.00.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by William O'Gurek to accept the letter of resignation from Officer Conarty effective June 28, 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. William O'Gurek thanked Officer Conarty for his services. Fittos informed Council that the new gas station in town opened today. John O'Gurek said that we will do what we have done in the past. One month we will get gas from one station, then the next month we will go to the other station and switch back and forth to give business to both. Fittos said an account will need to be set up at the new station. He told Council that there is a problem with the HVAC in Summit Hill Borough – July 27, 2015 Council Meeting

the police station. The pan is leaking and it is starting to smell like an old pair of boots. It is probably starting to produce mold because all of the insulation is soaking wet. Kira said that she spoke to Ronnie about it briefly and he explained that the baffles in the unit are not working and it is causing the water to drain, which can eventually cause mold. The repairman from HY Lyons told Ronnie what needed to be done and if it didn't get any better he would have to come back to fix it. Michael Alabovitz said to get it fixed before we have major problems on our hands. **Motion was made by Michael Alabovitz and second by John O'Gurek to have the HVAC system for the police department repaired.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by John O'Gurek to purchase a 2015 Interceptor for the police department with a 5 year term and putting \$3,000.00 down.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Police Report for the month of June 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Planning and Zoning Report – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, said everyone has a copy of the Planning and Zoning report. There are no new items at this time. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by William O'Gurek to accept the Planning and Zoning report for June 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Work Leader Report – John O'Gurek said he would like to note that the item on the work order list dated 7-20-2015, painting lines on Richards Alley, has been completed. Jesse Walck informed Council that he asked Kira to write a work order to have the workers take the brush hog up to East and West Mountaintop Road and trim back all the weeds and growth. O'Gurek added that they still needs to go around to the areas where they paved and pick up the piles and the cones that they have left behind. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by William O'Gurek to accept the Work Leader Report for the month of June 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Tax Collector Report – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the Tax collector report for the month of June 2015. Alice Kane submitted total taxes in the amount of \$17,770.53 with a commission of \$888.52. **Motion was made Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to accept the Tax Collector Report for the month of June 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Wage Tax Report - Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the Wage Tax Report for the month of June 2015. Berkheimer submitted a total EIT of \$20,163.78 with a commission of \$348.83 and postage charges of \$11.71 Total LST submitted was \$87.19 with a commission of \$1.79 and postage charges of \$1.06. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Mike Kokinda to accept the Wage Tax Report for the month of June 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Receipts - Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the receipts for the month of June 2015. General Fund receipts were \$130,007.56, Sanitation Account receipts were \$5,063.26 and Community Center receipts were \$975.00. **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Receipts for the month of June 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Committee Reports –

Streets –

1. John O'Gurek said that he will need to check with Kira to see how much money is left in the Street Account so they can pave up on Mountaintop Road. After that, some patching will need to be done here and there. Jesse Walck as if John was talking about paving the West said of Mountaintop Road. John said yes, the area around Blasko's, about 800 feet. Jesse added that it is definitely a safety issue.

2. Michael Alabovitz asked about the quotes for the barricades. Kira Steber explained that she emailed all of Council and only one person got back to her about the prices so far. Chief Fittos stated that it would be better to buy a couple every year because we do use them a lot. Alabovitz said they come in 6 foot and 8 foot lengths; Fittos said 6 foot should be long enough. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by John O'Gurek to purchase eight 6 foot barricades at the price of \$54.75 each.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

3. Kira Steber said she was talking with the Borough workers and they are asking to have someone part-time to help cut the grass and help with other things they need to get done. Michael Alabovitz stated that we did not get any summer help this year. He said everyone in town is complaining about how high the grass is and now they need to get up on Mountaintop Road to trim back the weeds. John O'Gurek added that he received a call from Mrs. Eisenhower from Mountaintop Road complaining about the weeds and the condition of the road. Alabovitz said it will take a week to cut up there. Jesse Walck said it will only take a half day, not a week. Alabovitz added that they will need to do both sides. Walck said that he has also received a few complaints from residents who live up there. John told Kira to make sure the weed trimming get put on a work order and to also have them sweep both sides. Kira said that they are already aware of it; John said to make them very aware of it. John stated that we purchased the street sweeper so we do not need to ask anyone to do it for us and it works great. Kira explained that we do have a call out list but it all depends on who is available. John asked what the time frame is for part-time help. He doesn't see any reason why it couldn't be done in two weeks. Kira stated that Ronnie said it would be a big help to have someone trimming while they are cutting the grass. She added that Stoney Lonesome Road needs to be trimmed and pot holes need to be filled. Roobhenn Smith informed Council that he has people coming to him that need to fill community service and that wouldn't cost the Borough anything. Kira explained that they need to be at least 16 years of age to cut grass. Smith said he would see what he could do to get some help for the Borough. O'Gurek said to see who we can get from the call out list. They do not need to be full-time, just someone to help out.

4. Kira Steber said the guys are still in need of a pickup truck. John O'Gurek said he found one online in the \$5,000.00 price range. Since we wouldn't be buying it from government or a municipality, we would need to get price quotes, which is not hard to do. Kira added that the red dump truck cannot get fixed until they have another truck they can use. John said we do need a pickup truck before the other one can be sent out for repairs. Kira explained that a motion was made last month to have the red truck repaired but we cannot do it right now and it is going to take a while to get it fixed because it needs to be taken apart to be repaired. Michael Alabovitz mentioned that the Water Authority has an old truck and said we can ask them if we can borrow it for now. William O'Gurek said he already talked to them about the plowing agreement and will talk to them about the truck.

Buildings – Michael Alabovitz informed Council that the sidewalk behind the fire company has to get repaired before someone trips and gets hurt and mentioned the damaged gutter issue at the building as well. Kira asked Michael if he spoke with Ronnie. She gave him the phone number for Miller Brothers to get a contact number for who installed the gutters. The number he was given was no longer in service but he found another number online and put a call into the company. Alabovitz said that company was contacted a few years ago and since they are a two hour or more ride from us, they did not want to come up and look at it.

Fire and Emergency Services - Nothing to report at this time.

Recreation – Nothing to report at this time.

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to accept Committee reports for the month of June 2015. Motion was opened to the floor for comment, none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Communications

1. Letter from the Hootenanny Committee requesting permission to use Ludlow Park and reserve the Hill Top Community Center for Sunday, June 26, 2016 for the 5th Annual Hootenanny from 11:00 – 8:00 p.m. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to grant permission to the Hootenanny Committee to hold the 5th Annual Hootenanny on Sunday, June 26, 2016 from 11:00 – 8:00 p.m. and to reserve the Hill Top Community Center.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Communication for the Month of July 2015

1. Letter from the Hootenanny Committee requesting permission to use Ludlow Park and to reserve the Hill Top Community Center on Sunday, June 26, 2016 for the 5th annual Hootenanny from 11-8 pm.
2. Notice of Property Assessment from the Carbon County Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes
3. Notice to Change the 2015 Tax Duplicate from the Carbon County Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes
4. PMRS July 2015 Newsletter
5. PA Department of Transportation Summer 2015 Newsletter
6. PennDOT LTAP Summer Technical Information Sheet #166 and #167
7. Miller-Keystone Summer 2015 Newsletter
8. PCI Products catalogs
9. Financial Audit from District Court #56-3-01, Lansford, and District Court #56-3-03, Carbon County

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to approve Communications for the month of July 2015. Motion opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Bills – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the expenses for the month of July 2015. Total General Fund Expenses were \$175,926.25, total Sanitation Fund Expenses were \$24,111.18, total Community Center Expenses were \$752.54 and total Street Account Expenses were \$ 33,846.54. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by John O’Gurek to pay the bills for the month of July 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Old Business –

1. Memorandum of Understanding with CLSH Sewer Authority – Kira Steber informed Council that a letter was received from Solicitor Perilli in regards to a memorandum of understanding prepared by the Sewer Authority in order to proceed with the preparation of a regional 537 plan. William O’Gurek said he had a question on the second bulleted item. It reads that funding for the preparation of the Regional Act 537 Plan will be obtained through user rates or any other method the Authority deems acceptable. Since we have money in our sewer fund account, can we use that money to help pay for it. Jesse Walck stated that at the meeting the Sewer Authority said they will pay for it. Mike Kokinda asked if we need a motion to accept this memorandum. Solicitor Greek said we need to make a motion to enter into a memorandum of understanding by giving them our signature. Usually when you have any type of municipal agreement it would be passed by ordinance. Does not look like you will be

paying for anything. You are just agreeing to allow them to these things. Kira Steber said that she also has a letter from Carbon Engineering that was sent to DEP in regards to copies of the agendas and meeting minutes. It states that short term, special meetings between the Authority and three Boroughs will be held as necessary to resolve any issues regarding the Memorandum of Understanding. Future meetings will be held between the Authority and three Boroughs regarding the progress of the Act 537 Planning. Once the flow study is complete, meetings will be held between the Authority and three Boroughs to discuss ownership, repairs, reconstruction, operation and maintenance of the treatment plant and collection system. Greek said it is very important that we see everything that going out to DEP to see what is being represented by the Authority. This will have an impact on what we have to do as a municipality and our responsibilities. Although they are preparing the Act 537 plan it will still have an effect on the municipality. **Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Michael Alabovitz to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding between the Summit Hill Borough and the CLSH Sewer Authority.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Solicitor Greek said he will follow up with Attorney Perilli and will ask that he is carbon copied as the solicitor for the Borough.

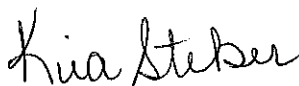
New Business -

1. Handicap Parking Renewal – Kira Steber said she has a renewal for Lois Civaglia with a letter asking for exemption from the doctor’s review for future renewals and she is also applying for the financial exemption based off the household income. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to approve the handicap renewal application for 342 West Iron Street with an exemption from doctor’s approvals for future renewals and to allow the fee waiver for the application based off of the household income.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
2. Garbage Exemption Application – Kira Steber said she has one application for garbage exemption for the property located at 620 East White Bear Drive. **Motion was made by Michael Alabovitz and Bill Chapman to approve the garbage exemption for 620 East White Bear Drive.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
3. Government Crime Policy – Kira Steber explained that she is getting some quotes on insurance for the upcoming renewal. She was presented with an application for government crime policy, which the Borough does not have to have, but it was suggested. What it does is cover things like employee theft, loss of coverage, forgery, etc. For example, I am bonded but the Councilmen who sign the checks are not bonded. Gail Miller is the Assistant Secretary, she is not bonded and handles money. She said she use to get the assistants bonded and the insurance company said there was no need to do it, yet she feels they should be because they do handle a lot of money at times. Michael Alabovitz said it doesn’t hurt to get a quote.
4. PSAB Recognition Plaque – Kira Steber stated that the Borough was presented with a plaque of recognition from the PSAB for being a member.
5. Mike Kokinda reminded everyone that the American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive on August 3rd from 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the Hill Top Community Center.
6. William O’Gurek said he has received a lot of complaints about people putting their garbage out and not placing it in garbage bags. There is a problem right now with skunks and they are ripping the garbage bags apart. So just a reminder to residents that there is an ordinance and you must put your garbage in a container of some sort.

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to adjourn at 8:11 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 24, 2015. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.



Mike Kokinda
Council President



Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer