

Summit Hill Borough Council
March 23, 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 Michael Kokinda, Vice President John O’Gurek, Michael Alabovitz, Greg Kosciolk, Jesse Walck, Bill Chapman, William O’Gurek, Solicitor Michel Greek and Mayor Paul McArdle were all in attendance.

Minutes - Motion was made by John O’Gurek and second by Greg Kosciolk to approve the February 23, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Floor -

1. Joe Bohovich, 44 E. Hazard Street, would like to talk to Council about his issue with the sewer that keeps backing up into his basement. He went down into my basement on Friday, March 13, 2015 after some rain and fast melting winter snow. He opened up the sealed floor drain and sewer back pressure backed up to his basement floor. It was probably from Hazard street basements flooding and exiting their floor drains. On March 16, 2015, he called the Borough Secretary to report this and she notified me that no one else on the block is having issues. On March 17, 2015, the Borough workers hooked the fire hose up to the fire hydrant, added dye and flushed the lines. They ran the fire hose approximately 10 minutes down the line and when they finished up the Borough workers replaced the manhole cover. He came home and after approximately 15 minutes very slowly opened up the floor drain. The sewer back pressure was much stronger into my basement with dye visible so he closed the floor drain immediately. He had the same exact problem in spring 2011 when the rain and snow melted and in August 2011, approximately August 26th and 27th, when hurricane Irene was around and we had a ridiculous amount of excessive rain fall. I reported this to Borough council at their September 19, 2011 Council meeting. The floor drains have been opened during these times and sewer back pressure pushed back through the lateral floor drains covering his basement floor with raw sewage. I had a plumber come in spring 2011 and run his drain snake through my lateral at least 60 feet and sewage did not exit. Approximately two days later, the rain and the thaw subsided, the sewage subsided and he was able to hose down his basement and the sewage went down the floor drain lateral effortlessly. On approximately August 26 and 27, 2011, with excessive rain fall from hurricane Irene, the floor drains were still opened and sewage back pressure forced its way into his lateral floor drain covering his basement with raw sewage. He again called the plumber who ran his drain cleaning snake through his lateral 60 or maybe 90 feet and again to no avail the sewage would not exit. After a few days, once the rain subsided, the raw sewage exited, he hosed his basement down again and everything drained down his lateral effortlessly. He had Joe Hutta, a plumber, run his camera down the lateral and there were no issues, damage or cracks in his lateral. He brought his camera up to check the drain and as soon as it went from the lateral and entered into the main sewer, he left the camera there and we went outside with another tracking device to locate where it is and Hutta determined that the lateral dropped off into the main sewer at around 13 feet 8 inches from the north side berm. He did measure the distance from the north edge of the curb to the center of the manhole cover at Hazard and Chestnut and also at Hazard and Pine. It measures about 19 feet. There should be a manhole cover at Hazard and Oak but there is not, or is there. Could it be paved over. Unfortunately, his lateral drops off at 13 feet 8 inches from the north side curb and 5 foot 4 inches on the low side of the 19 foot manhole marks, which makes him presume gravity flows toward his lateral. He did show the CD of the camera to Carbon Engineering, on approximately September of 2011, which showed his lateral was clear. Approximately later in 2011, the Borough workforce leader opened up the manhole cover at Hazard and Chestnut Streets, hooked up a hose to the fire hydrant and ran water and dye down the main sewer line. At this time Councilman Harry Miller and I were in the

basement checking to see if any back pressure would enter the lateral. After about 10 minutes, low and behold, backpressure of water, sewage and dye entered into his lateral and onto his basement floor. He then had his basement floor drain sealed. Approximately late September 2011, the Borough had Lansford's pressure jetter at Hazard and Pine Streets and sent it up the main sewer line to clean it. Unfortunately, it somehow made it up Hazard Street approximately 150 to 200 feet before it miraculously made it up someone else's lateral. So the main sewer has not been cleaned since 2011, just partially to where that pressure jetter got stuck in the lateral. I feel sorry that this pressure jetter got stuck in the lateral. I lost thousands of dollars' worth of stuff that was in my basement, He said it makes him extremely nervous as he fears that eventually with all the dirt and debris remaining in this sewer and with all the back pressure caused by the debris, it will eventually blow off his sewer covers, fill his basement up with sewage, fill up to his furnace and breaker box and cause an electrical fire. Also, since the street was repaved many years ago, he would estimate 7 to 10 years ago, the manhole cover up on Hazard and Chestnut never had a riser put in to keep the manhole cover at street level. So approximately 7 to 10 years of cinders and debris got run over by automobiles and fell down into the cavity or hollow of the sewer cover. Also, all of the debris that fell down into the sewer cover that falls down into the main sewer creating an incredible mound of cinders, salt and sediment are lying in the main sewer line.

Furthermore, there is a chunk of the terracotta main broken off on the top of the main sewer at Hazard and Chestnut allowing it to catch all of the cinders, salt and sediment which is flowing downward into the line. This has been 7 to 10 years countless automobiles tracking this over the cavity of the sewer drain. On March 17, 2015, when the Borough workers removed the manhole cover, there was salt, cinder and sediment laying all around the bead where the sewer cover would seal properly creating a warped effect that it wasn't sitting right. Upon completion, no one even took the time to get a broom to sweep off the cinders from the bead so the sewer cover could sit back properly. It was dropped back into place with the cinders still lying in the bead making everything still able to fall down. I am asking Council to make three motions. One, to have a pressure jetter with a vacuum attached to be run from Pine Street to Chestnut Street all along the length of Hazard Street. Two, to have a rust free band wrapped around the terracotta part on the sewer line on Hazard and Chestnut Streets to prevent the main sewer from catching debris. Three, put a riser on the manhole of Hazard and Chestnut Streets so it is raised to street level. If this is done, will the pressure jetter have enough length to go the entire length of the sewer and is there going to be a vacuum behind it to pick up all the cinders, salt and debris. Without a vacuum, it is just not going to push it out through that line the whole entire length. It is still going to be stuck there defeating that purpose and probably being pushed up into Pine Street creating problems on that line, which goes down towards Hiles Bros. carwash. Is there or should there be a yearly preventative maintenance program to clean and maintain the Borough sewer lines. He requested copies of this Council meeting minutes from the solicitor, Attorney Greek. He was here a few weeks ago and heard that the minutes are now erased after each meeting. He knows that he will hear the story that the floor drains are illegal in this town. He thinks that when they tried to clean the lateral, when that pressure jetter got stuck, they went in to try to find where it was and everyone had a floor drain. Out of curiosity, he walked up both sides of Hazard Street from Pine to Chestnut after the heavy snow and saw two sump pump drain hoses on those two blocks, his and his neighbors. He is positive that there is a floor drain in every home in these two blocks and are probably in use, as well as every part of Summit Hill. He is almost positive that they are not sealed. You have a floor drain because you have an older house. He knows that Mr. Chapman has an older home, not sure about the rest of Council. He can understand that water should be pumped out from your floor drain in the basement. If someone has a shower, it is still your own water. Why couldn't you run that water down the drain or hose your dog down if you need to. He use to take care of his cousin's dog and use to wash him down the basement. The floor drains are illegal but they would be grandfathered in since they have been there since 1906.

Joseph Kosalko responded by saying, with respect to Mr. Bohovich, he has a lot of misinformation. First of all, the manhole cover that he is talking about at Chestnut and Hazard Streets has not been like this for 7-8 years. He put cold patch on that from day one and it is not there now. He is correct about

the jetter. We had the jetter down on the highway and it got stuck. You cannot go against the flow of the line but there was no other alternative. It went up someone's lateral and got stuck in front of Todd Constance's house. We opened up the street and got it out. As for the problem in his basement, why would you want to open up your floor drain if you have it sealed. Why would you want to open it up and have the water come back in to your basement. We had a professional come in there with a camera and a jetter and we did not see a problem. Secondly, there is a map in the Borough garage of the sewers which shows there is a manhole around his house. We measured it from on the map and went down and drilled about 20 holes in the street with a jackhammer to try and find this manhole. To this day, we cannot find it. That street was not paved 10-12 years ago and we did not pave over that. Bohovich said it has been at least 7 years. He asked Kosalko if he has a record of when it was paved; Kosalko said yes. Bohovich asked why the plumber would come in with his camera, go down the lateral and tell me exactly where it is at. He took it to Mike Tirpak at Carbon Engineering and he said there were no cracks, no issues and it was perfectly clear and only has the problem with the heavy rains. Mike Kokinda interrupted and said this is not between you and Mr. Kosalko. Joe Bohovich that's fine because I have the floor. He said he does have it sealed and thank God he does because right now the sewer line would be filled with sewage again. He asked why it backtracks when he partially cracks it open. He can't tell if his lateral lands 13 feet 8 inches away from the 19 foot mark or 5 foot 4 inches away from the center of the street. That can cut straight across the street. It is not guaranteed that there is a straight shot from Hazard to Chestnut, it can be snaking all over. You are talking about 1906 when men were digging it and you know this mountain is a solid piece of rock.

John O'Gurek explained that Lansford winterizes their truck and we are not going to pay for them to winterize it again. In about a week to 10 days they will be ready to bring the truck out of storage and we will use it to flush the line from Chestnut down. You cannot go against the flow anyway. We tried going up from the highway and that is where we ran into problems. We can flush from Chestnut down past your house but that won't go past the intersection. Bohovich asked if it is going to go down to the intersection of Hazard and Pine, O'Gurek said no. Bohovich said he wants it done the whole entire length and there should be a vacuum behind it. He stated that he spoke to an excavator that explained that one jet that comes forward and three that go in the back and it is supposed to go up the sewer line. John said if it is capable of doing it like that you probably could, he is not saying that you can't do it that way. We will flush it from there down and put it in as far as it will go but there is no way we are going up to the highway. Bill Chapman asked if he spoke to his neighbors to see if anyone else is having problems. Joe said that no one else is having problems but some of the neighbors are having a lot of water pumped out. It is fresh water, clean water, not sewage. Bill stated that if he is the only person having problems then the main line is not the problem. Bohovich asked what does he have to do. He has had two plumbers there when the rain and snow was falling. Mike Kokinda asked if he got dye in his basement the last time; he said yes. Mike asked if anyone else saw the dye; Joe said no but no one came down to see it. Mike stated that he also commented that the snake was in there 60 to 90 feet. Joseph Kosalko commented that his problem is that his line may be too low. Kokinda explained that the lateral is his responsibility. Bohovich said he is taking care of the lateral and he is still having sewage backing up into his house. Kokinda stated that it because the line is too low. Next week when the truck is available, we will take care of it.

2. Karen Ruzicka, 144 West White Street, said that she saw the county is going to be reimbursing the Borough for the tipping fees. She wants to know where the money is going to go since we are getting the reimbursement and can they look into getting the garbage bill lowered if this fee is no longer being charged. Can we negotiate. Kira Steber explained that we have a current contract with Tamaqua Transfer right now and unless they are willing to lower the contract, we cannot lower the bill. Karen asked if we will continue to pay the extra fee for the next couple of years. Kira stated that we can talk to Tamaqua Transfer and see if they would be willing to do it. Karen asked where the money is going to go; Kira said back into the garbage account. John O'Gurek said it will go back into the garbage account and when the contract is up the next time, the price will go up. The money will stay in escrow but that doesn't mean your garbage bills will go down. Karen stated that it seems like it will add up to

a lot of money over the next four years. Joseph Kosalko asked if it is in the contract for tipping fees; John O'Gurek said it is. Kosalko said we shouldn't be charged for it. Mike Kokinda said they are going to look into it. John stated that years back they told us if we didn't do recycling the fee would be higher because they get reimbursed for recycling.

3. Dave Hiles, 217 E. White Street, said he had a question about Borough employee work rules. Are there any work rules or any requirements that are put on Borough workers. The reason he is asking is because two storms ago we had a snow plowing incident where the plow hit 9 or 11 vehicles and the police couldn't find the Borough worker that ran into the cars. When you are a CDL driver you are required to give a blood test within 2 hours of either an accident with property damage or personal injuries. He was wondering if there are rules in place and if there are not, he would like to see Council form a committee and enact rules that would place the owners and the employee, if they are involved in an accident, to go for a blood test within two hours or they're terminated. This was an unfortunate thing that happened and it was able to happen. If you have a Borough worker that gets in an accident there should be a protocol that should be followed or the Borough worker is no longer a worker. Mike Kokinda responded that we do not have a policy in place but Attorney Greek is working on it. Hiles said there has got to be rules that the workers should follow. Michael Alabovitz said they talked to the Teamsters and they got the one that was acceptable to them and said we should use the same one that Nesquehoning has. Dave Hiles said he disagrees. If you are involved in an accident and the Teamsters say we are not sending the guy for a blood test that's not acceptable. Michael Alabovitz said a contract must have a policy agreed upon. Hiles said there is a 2 hour window with CDL drivers and accident liability for the town. Mike Kokinda said we are going to use the Nesquehoning model and tweak it. Dave Hiles stated that at the next contract time Council should really ask the union whether you put employer rules in effect. I know that down at the school it is important to put employer rules in. Alabovitz said you don't drug test at the school; Dave said I don't know if they do. Mike said I know they don't because they do not drug test for the teachers. Any accident you have, whether it's on a lawn mower, car or what. Mike Kokinda said we are looking into it.
4. Michael Green, 22 West Walter Street, is here due to a parking ticket he received on March 21, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. The street wasn't even plowed and it was still covered with snow. He has asked numerous people and he gets different answers on the parking situation and they haven't been going by the signs. I am just wondering why I got this parking ticket when the street wasn't even plowed. Mike Kokinda said he believes the sign reads 8:00 a.m. until it's been cleared. Even if the street hasn't been plowed after 8:00 a.m., you can't park there. Joe Fittos said if the plow already went around you, they are not going to come back. We go around with a horn and try to get people to move and try to do everything we can so people don't get a ticket. We are trying to do everything we can to get you to comply and if you don't, that's about all we can do. Karen Ruzicka asked why the Borough workers were called out on Sunday when the rain washed all the snow away. Her husband went over to the gas station and William and another driver were over there and said they got called out. John O'Gurek said they got called out but they didn't plow and went back home. Bill Searfoss asked why both sides weren't done Saturday. John said we are going to have a workshop and we will get something in place a lot better than what we have now. Dave Hiles explained that they had a situation where everyone on his street moved their cars over but common sense told us they weren't coming back. This is something we all have to sit down and think about because technically the ordinance said they were going to plow.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Paul McArdle reported receiving two checks from the District Justice in the total of \$890.40. **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Mayors report for the month of February 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Police Report – Chief Fittos read the Police report for the month of February 2015. He stated that he followed up on the grant that he applied for to replace the Explorer and they could not reach a consensus. He will check back with them in May. Joe also request permission to attend an Advance Media Relations for Law

Enforcement Command Personnel seminar. It will be held July 29 and 30, 2015 in Monroe County. There is no cost to the Borough and no overtime will be expended to cover his shift. Training will be set up in April for the department to use the Narcan. An agreement will be forthcoming, our attorney is looking into it.

Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to allow Chief Fittos to attend the Advance Media Relations for Law Enforcement Command Personnel seminar on July 29 and 30, 2015 at no cost to the Borough. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. Dave Hiles asked who pays for the Narcan. Chief Fittos stated that it is free. David asked if taxpayers are paying for it; Joe said no. Karen asked when the free stuff runs out who pays for it. Joe said we are probably going to have to pay for it. Kira Steber stated that there was a problem with the copier in the police department. It could no longer be serviced and it will cost a lot to fix it. She received quotes for two different Lexmark all-in-one printers. The cost for one is \$1,925.00 and the other is \$2,325.00. The cheaper one is pretty much like the one they have now and works exactly the same. There will still be a maintenance fee, which will also cover the supplies for the machine. The current copier is down right now so they are using the Borough's printer. Joe explained that it does get to be a problem because if stuff is sitting on the Borough's copier it can be read. He explained that if one of his officers prints something out and doesn't get to it right away it just sits there and anyone can read it. Michael Alabovitz suggested that Kira look into the cost of getting it repaired. Jesse Walck said that there is money sitting in an account that can be used to purchase a new one. Mike Kokinda said let's look into the price of repairs first before we decide on purchasing a new one. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O’Gurek to purchase a new Lexmark printer for the police department at a cost of \$1,925.00, providing the old one cannot be fixed.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council. **Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Police report for the month of February 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Planning and Zoning Report – Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the Planning and Zoning report for the month of February 2015. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Greg Kosciolk to accept the Planning and Zoning report for the month of February 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Work Leader Report – **Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to accept the Work Leader report for the month of February 2015.** Motion opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Tax Collector Report – Nothing to Report at this time.

Wage Tax Report - Borough Secretary, Kira Steber, read the Wage Tax Report for the month of February 2015. Berkheimer submitted a total EIT of \$40,147.77 with a commission of \$694.56 and postage charges of \$95.29. Total LST submitted was \$70.20 with a commission of \$1.44 and postage charges of \$1.58. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Jesse Walck to accept the Wage Tax Report for the month of February 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 February 2015. General Fund receipts were \$76,981.72, Sanitation Account receipts were \$87,825.05 and Community Center receipts were \$390.00. **Motion was made by Michael Alabovitz and second by Greg Kosciolk to accept the Receipts for the month of February 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Committee Reports –

Streets – Michael Alabovitz said that a new plow is needed for truck #2 because it is completely destroyed. Mike Kokinda asked if it is just the blade; Mike said no the entire plow.

Buildings – Michael Alabovitz said there is a problem with frozen pipes in the men’s restrooms in the Community Center because there is no insulation around the pipes. We have had to keep running heaters in there to prevent the pipes from freezing. He suggested insulating the walls better. Mike Kokinda asked John O’Gurek about his request for a PA system for the meeting room. Joe Fittos said the guy who does their radios and puts their cameras in gave them a price a while ago and Mike Kokinda was going to do some of the wiring. Joe said he will look and see if he still has the information. Kira asked Michael Alabovitz if he has an update for the doors on the community center. Mike said he talked to the guy and he is going to call her to set up a meeting and come and look at it.

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

Recreation – Jodi McAndrew said the Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on Saturday, March 28, 2015. In a couple of weeks they will be submitting their grant for DCNR. They are have a meeting with Mike Tirpak tomorrow. Their first goal is to get ADA compliable to make sure everything is up to code.

Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Greg Kosciolk to accept the Committee reports for the month of February 2015. Motion opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Communications

1. Council received a request from the Hootenanny Committee requesting permission to use Ludlow Park for the 4th Annual Summit Hill Hootenanny on Sunday, June 28, 2015 from 11:00 am - 8:00 p.m. **Motion was made by William O’Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to allow the Hootenanny Committee to hold their 4th Annual Hootenanny in Ludlow Park on June 28, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
2. Kira told Council that a letter was received from the Panther Valley School District asking if Council was contemplating and changes in the bus stops for the 2015-2016 school year. Council did not see any changes happening.
3. William O’Gurek mentioned that the bins by the Post Office will have to be emptied more often because they look terrible. If they can’t, they will have to remove the bins.

Communication for the Month of March 2015

1. Request from Sara Ruch to hold the Hootenanny on Sunday, June 28, 2015 – Letter Attached
2. Letter from PVSD in regards to Bus Stops for school year 2015-2016
3. Notice of Occupational Assessment from Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes
4. Notice of Property Assessment from Board of Assessment and Revision of Taxes
5. Repository Sales Information from Carbon County Tax Claim Bureau for the following properties:
 1. 39 West Walter Street
 2. 221 Richards Street
 3. Knepper’s Trailer Court – Lot 5
6. Letter from Pikes Creek Asphalt & Crushed Stone – Hosting a breakfast on Tuesday March 31st at 8:00 a.m. at the Sweet Valley Fire Hall, Sweet Valley, PA to meet with representatives from PennDOT, local Conservation District and representatives from other suppliers.

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and seconded by Greg Kosciolek to accept the Communications for the month of March 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 March 2015. Total General Fund Expenses were \$47,081.54, Total Sanitation Fund Expenses were \$23,753.04, Total Community Center Expenses were \$124.46 and Total Street Account Expenses were \$ 5,609.08. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Greg Kosciolek to pay the bills for March 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Unfinished Business

1. Breaker Boys – Kira Steber stated that Council would not allow the Breaker Boys to use the Ginder Field the last time because of the snow and the possibility of tearing up the field. They submitted an official request asking to use the field from March to July 2015 at 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays. She said she is still waiting to get the insurance from Eric. She asked if Council is going to allow them to use the field. William O'Gurek said he doesn't have a problem with them using the field as long as they follow the rules. She expressed her concern of allowing them on the field without having a copy of their insurance, which she noted she has been asking them for a while now. O'Gurek stated his concern of using the field this Saturday because if it rains they will tear up the field. He also said it would be good to have a copy of their schedule. Chief Fittos said there is a need for signs to have no parking on the field. There have been issues with them doing this before. Kira asked if Council wants to make a motion to allow them to use the field. Mike Kokinda said to wait until we receive all of their information.
2. Water Authority Update – Michael Greek said Kathy Slog has done a search on the properties and should have the information this week. He still needs to get a letter out to Michele because he hasn't obtained financial information from her yet. He did receive two letters from Attorney Velitsky regarding some input on litigation and settling that litigation case that they had out there. They have an employee that is retiring and they are basically not taking any action on operating as an authority because they know June 1, 2015 is the takeover. They need direction on what to do. He suggested having the committee meet with the representatives from the authority just to get it rolling because they're not doing anything. John said he spoke with the secretary the other day and they have no intention on hiring anybody. Michael Greek said you need to tie in with them on what you want done. If you are taking over, and are going to hire somebody new, maybe hire through them then take it over. John said right now we have four seats on Council that will be open. Jim Yusella, Water authority board member, asked if they can hire new secretaries. Mike Kokinda said that they are still a functioning body. Yusella asked if they hire someone, will they still have a job once the takeover happens. Mike Kokinda said he doesn't see that being an issue unless they are not really qualified or not performing well. William O'Gurek said that he hopes they can resolve this before June 1, 2015. If that means someone from Council, he would be willing to sit down and work some kind of agreement out with them. He would like to see the authority still exist. He feels that any differences between the Borough and the Water Authority can be resolved. He also feels that taking the steps to eliminating the authority may be something that comes back and bites us when it's gone. It is tougher to put it back together than it is to work out differences. John feels it should be put off until after the election of Council. William O'Gurek said if we can reach some kind of consensus then June 1st could be a moot point. If we could reach some sort of agreement with the Water Authority, then we don't have to talk about this at all. John said that gives us enough time to talk about it and be fair to the two new people coming in there are at least two seats that are going to be available. William O'Gurek asked what kind of motion needs to be made so we can put this off to have discussions with the authority. He thinks we can settle some differences, but it's going to take sitting down and discussing things. John said all of us sitting up here are away all day long and if there is issues how are you supposed to maintain a Water Authority. It is bad enough we are trying to run a community; this is a big burden

we are taking on. John feels we can work something out but the bottom line is we need more time to discuss this, have a few more meetings with the Water Authority and take it from there. David Hiles said no one in the public understands why they are doing this in the first place. Maybe the new Council can educate the town on why you are doing it and maybe you could listen to the town people and see if they think it's a good idea or not. Stanley Zuber said the town's people have some idea why. Someone said nothing is going to change. So if that is the case, why do this. Stanley said if nothing is going to change, you are making the biggest mistake you can make in this town by taking over the Water Authority. You guys have enough problems to take care of now. You are trying to resolve simple everyday issues that come up and you are faced with the drama. You already have the Water Authority. He is 80 years old and has been here all his life. They have done a good job. We cannot live here living the standard of life we are living without clean water and they have done the job for us. I know that there are personal issues that people have with members of the Water Authority, throw that out! You people have enough to do. The Water Authority has a single mission. Its mission is to provide the community with good water and it's absolutely necessary. They are focused on one issue. I don't know of one time they have not served us properly. Todd Konstas said he would like to see someone make the motion to rescind the motion to take the Water Authority over. Let the Water Authority be the Water Authority. Mike Kokinda said he is not personally comfortable doing that. John said he already made the motion to push it past the election. John Gawlik asked about the Borough and the Water Authority combining their money. Mike Kokinda said that is a consideration and it was an argument that was brought to him. If there becomes an issue somewhere in the future, major work may be needed. The Water Authority is their own separate entity and could apply for grant monies where we as a Borough might not be able to get it. So, to have two entities might be a good idea. Jesse Walck said Water and Sewer Authorities are directly tied to what your rates are. Rates for the Water Authority would have to go up astronomically to get any type of Penn Vest Loans or anything like that. It doesn't help or hurt as far as finances go whether it is an authority or a Borough. Mike Kokinda said he would talk about it but he is not for getting rid of the whole idea. John O'Gurek said it would only be fair to rescind until after the election with two new people coming in. Jim Yusella asked if the board can continue as usual. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by William O'Gurek to push the takeover date back to January 1, 2016.** Mike Kokinda said we have a motion that was made and seconded to push the takeover date back to January 1, 2016. Jesse Walck said it's not that simple. You can't take a motion and just put it off. It is passed the way it was written. You have to advertise and rewrite it. So until you have something on paper and then re-advertise you cannot go through with the motion. Michael Greek said you have to rescind the original ordinance and if you are looking to push it past January, you have to re-do the ordinance. Wayne Gryzik said, as the newest member of the Water Authority, he suggests you conduct business as usual until the decision to take it over is made. Mike Kokinda said part of the problem is the way things have been done in the past. That is what we don't want to see and we do not get the cooperation and nothing is being corrected. John Gawlik suggested taking out the person who is the problem. John O'Gurek said there is a big communication problem between the Borough and the Water Authority. The Shared Services Agreement was turned down; this is where the communication problem is. Mike Kokinda commented that the Borough asked the Water Authority to help us out by shoveling the steps and making sure the sidewalks are clear. We were told it isn't our building so we don't have to do that. However, there is no rent, heat or lights being paid and you do not pay for the internet. Yet we are told that it's not your building so you don't have to shovel the snow. William O'Gurek said just because that's the way it was then doesn't mean we can't reach an agreement now. Mike Alabovitz said what happens in five years from now when it's a whole different story. We are not going to cooperate now. It's been an ongoing problem for many years. He has asked why they can't have their meeting in the meeting room and they refused to do it and they lock the doors. It is a public meeting and should be open to the public. John O'Gurek said I will make the motion to rescind the ordinance and reset the date until we make the final decision. **Motion was made by John O'Gurek and second by William O'Gurek to rescind the ordinance to take over the Water Authority.** A roll call vote was taken.

Michael Alabovitz	No
Greg Kosciolk	Yes
Jesse Walck	No
Bill Chapman	No
William O'Gurek	Yes
John O'Gurek	Yes
Mike Kokinda	Yes

Motion carried by a 4-3 vote. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Jesse Walck commented to the Water Authority board members that if they would like to show him where the money for improvements to the lines are in the budget, he would consider changing his vote. There is nothing there and if the lines break, there is nothing there to fix them. Wayne Gryzik stated that he can get that information to him. Jesse said he has seen the budget and there is nothing there. John O'Gurek said the Water Authority needs to start running it like it is supposed to be run and get an ad in the paper to start looking for someone to replace the employees that are leaving. John said we should sit down and have a meeting to discuss the problems. He also feels that the five year appointments are entirely too long. Mike Kokinda said we will get together and talk with the Water Authority. Things need to change and hopefully we can reach a resolution. Michael Greek is going to look into changing the terms for the Water Authority from 5 years to 3 years.


New Business

1. 2015 SEO Fee Schedule - Kira said that Council needs to approve the Sewage Enforcement Officers fee schedule for 2015. She noted that all the rates are the same as they were for 2014. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to adopt the 2015 Fee Schedule for the Borough's Sewage Enforcement Officer, Scott Bieber.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.
2. Appeals Board - Kira mentioned that there is a vacant seat on the Borough's Appeals Board. Anyone interested can submit a letter of interest.
3. Spring Clean-Up - Kira stated that the spring clean-up dates have been set and the electronics pick-up will be scheduled at a future date.
4. Kira mentioned that the Borough Office will be closed on Friday, April 3rd for the Easter Holiday.

Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by William O'Gurek to adjourn until the next regular schedule meeting of the Summit Hill Borough on April 27, 2015. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.



Mike Kokinda
Council President



Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer

Summit Hill Borough Council
April 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Borough Hall

A special meeting of the Summit Hill Borough Council was held at the above time and place with Vice President John O'Gurek presiding.

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

Floor - Nothing at this time

New Business

1. Resolution No. 1 of 2015 - **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Greg Kosciolek to adopt Resolution No.1 of 2015 for the Ginder Field Rehabilitation grant being submitted by the Borough for the Summit Hill Recreation Commission.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

2. Commitment Letter for the Grant - Kira explained that on the third page is the match that Council will be committing to. The current number that is listed is \$9,787.00 this can change. She said that Mike Tirpak said the change depends on what Council is willing to help with and give back to the project. If Council agrees to help with some paving materials, actual paving and use of the Borough equipment instead of hiring someone else to come and do the work, then the amount will come down. Bill Chapman asked if this was something we have to agree upon now because all of Council is not there at this time. Kira explained that it was very important because the deadline for the grant is two days away. Jodi McAndrew added that if Council agrees to commit to this much money, the grant will match the same dollar amount. **Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Greg Kosciolek to commitment to providing services and materials in the amount of \$9,787.00 for the Ginder Field Rehabilitation project.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

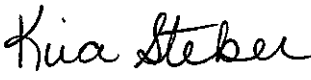
3. Acknowledgement and Release Request - Kira stated that she received a request from the Anthracite Little League use the Ginder Field for baseball practice from April 6 - June 30, 2015 after 4:00 p.m. Bill Chapman asked if they provided their insurance. Kira said they have it and she asked for a copy to have on file with the request. **Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Bill Chapman to approve the request from the Anthracite Little League to use the Ginder Field from April 6 - June 30, 2015.** Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.

Council entered into Executive Session to discuss Personnel issues at 7:03 p.m.

Council entered back into Regular Session at 7:12 p.m.

Motion was made by William O'Gurek and second by Greg Kosciolek to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. until the next regular scheduled meeting of the Summit Hill Borough on April 27, 2015. Motion was opened to the floor for comment; none made. Motion carried unanimously by Council.


Mike Kokinda
Council President


Kira Steber
Secretary/Treasurer