



# Borough of Walnutport

## Workshop Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 3, 2017 7:00 pm

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1. William Turk, President called the August 3, 2017 workshop meeting of the Borough Council to order at 7:00 pm in the Borough Municipal Building, 417 Lincoln Avenue, Walnutport, PA 18088. Mr. Turk led the Pledge of allegiance.
2. Roll Call: William Turk, President; Harold Greene, Vice-President (absent); Joan Rehrig, Councilwoman; Nancy Treskot, Councilwoman; David Stankovic, Councilman; Jennifer Wentz, Councilwoman; Patrice Hunsicker, Councilwoman; Michael Wentz, Grant Coordinator; Wayne Weidner, Mayor; and Annette Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer.
3. Present from the public-Brian Filchner, Alice Wanamaker, & Don Eckhart.
4. Opportunity for Residents & taxpayers to be Heard
  - A. Brian Filchner-WPA brought in a copy of the lease agreement that was signed in 2014. It is a 5 year lease. Annette will look into where our copy is. He also thanked borough council for approving the \$1,500 for roofing material.
5. Standing Committees –
  - A. Finance – Nancy asked Annette to find the PTD agreement to find when expire. She doesn't think we should let any of our agreements automatically renew. We should renew all of them.
  - B. Law –Jennifer – Chief Wayda
    - i. Geese complaint- the Chief met with Marissa Altmann. She is an Interdisciplinary Conservation Professional. She was made aware of the geese situation by a resident. Chief informed her of other methods done and were unsuccessful before the police department obtained the permit to shoot the geese. She will work with us and the borough in trying to educate who ever needs to in order to help control the geese problem. She made a few suggestions that the police department have already implemented.
    - ii. The Chief and the may recommend taking Officer Dean Heffelfinger off of probation effective August 4<sup>th</sup>. The motion was made by Patrice. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  - C. Streets/buildings –David & Harold
    - i. According to Rick the salt shed is moving along good.
    - ii. First Avenue project-Roger Spade was at David's house about the curbing. Rick and David measured the curbing. It will be adjusted when the finish paving is done.
  - D. Personnel – Bill, Harold, David – nothing

E. Ordinance – Jennifer

- i. Tax relief-volunteer fire fighter – council discussed some of this act. Nancy asked Fire Chief Michael Wentz a few questions on how the fire company is going to keep track of how individuals qualify, what is their criteria? Chief Wentz explained it would consist of number of calls, monthly training, fund raising events etc. There is a system that someone inputs into who is at what call/event and what time. Nancy asked would that show if someone was double dipping? She explained like Chief Wentz, you get paid as a borough employee during the day when you respond to a call but then you would want that time to go towards your tax relief. David said that Chief Wentz has enough time for his hours that he puts in other than 7-3:30.

F. Solid Waste – Patrice

- i. Complaint list received in office-the secretaries will be keeping track of all the garbage complaints on a chart. Every council member will get a copy of this chart at the monthly meeting.
- ii. Motion to waive garbage on 757 Carbon Street-owner deceased-mailing returned-made by Jenn. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- iii. Letter requesting garbage waiver 31 View Drive- Patrice made the motion to have Annette send them letter explaining council will waive future billing (until house is habitable) if she agrees to make good on her current balance (payment arrangements). Nancy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

G. Recreation Board- Jennifer Wentz

- i. NL Recreation Authority- Nancy
  - a) Candy Cane Hunt 12/9
  - b) Boot camp in the park 10/21 on walking path
  - c) Patrice made the motion to allow the NL Recreation Authority use the facility on 12/9/17 & 10/21/17. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Nancy will inform them to fill out the application for use of the facility and get to Annette.
  - d) Looking to do a food truck festival in spring-they will coordinate with ball field schedule and any pavilion rentals...possibly doing as a block party...
- ii. Walnutport Playground Association & Walnutport Canal Association-Joan

H. Secretary/Treasurer- Annette Lacko

- i. Motion to approve Resolution 2017-06 made by Patrice. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried. This resolution is to appoint Matthew Newhard to the vacancy board.

I. Grants- Michael Wentz- Mike gave a brief update on outstanding grants.

- i. There was then a lengthy discussion on the USDA grant/loan program. This program is to help with infrastructure & equipment purchase. This would include things like firetruck, ambulance, police car, snow plow truck, etc. There is money available for The Borough of Walnutport to get funds towards the freightliner that we received a partial grant towards. The purchase price is about \$160,000. We have the other grant for \$100,000, with this possible \$24,000 we would only have

to take @\$36,000 out of general funds. A few hold ups...we have to expedite approval of the minutes so they can be included in the grant application. Annette has several letters she will have to type and get signatures on and Mike has to file by next Thursday's meeting. Annette will get minutes done tomorrow, forward them to all of council. Once council reads they will let Annette know yes or no. The official approval will be on next Thursday's agenda. Nancy made the motion to have Mike proceed to this grant and have Annette get done what needs to, to get this processed. Joan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. New Business –

A. Hunting permits 2017/2018 – Joan made the motion to approve

- i. Kyle Kromer
- ii. Ray Christman
- iii. Michael Wentz. Jen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Patrice brought up and council discussed possible limiting the number of permits issued and possibly to residents/tax payers first. They will discuss this again in the future once we see how many we have this year, since it is the first full year of issuing the permits.

B. Nancy would like to go to training October 14<sup>th</sup> and have borough pay for that.

Wayne, Patrice, & Jennifer expressed interest in attending also. This training is in Tannersville. Some of the seminars are the tax relief for volunteer firefighters. This will be discussed next week again.

7. Unfinished Business –

A. 911 issue with Lehigh County & Northampton County-Solicitor is working on this

8. Upcoming events-E-recycling event is September 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm. Patrice asked Annette to notify Angie from Tamaqua Transfer of date and time so they make arrangements for tire collection same date and time.

9. Mayor's Announcements~ nothing

10. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joan. David seconded the motion. Motion carried at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Annette S. Lacko, Secretary/Treasurer