

**APRIL COUNCIL MEETING****April 4, 2017**

The monthly meeting of the St. Clair Borough Council was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, in Council Chambers, St. Clair Municipal Building, 16 S. Third Street, St. Clair. The meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Answering the roll call were council persons: John Burke, Thomas Dempsey, William Dempsey, John Houseknecht, Michael Petrozino, James Larish and Mayor Richard Tomko. Councilwoman Joann Brennan was absent.

Also present included Solicitor Edward Brennan, Engineer Brian Baldwin, Treasurer Carol Sutzko, Fire Chief Frank Uhrin, Police Chief William Dempsey, Stephen Pytak of the Pottsville Republican-Herald newspaper and Joe Haffey

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilmember John Burke led council in a prayer.

Copies of the minutes of the previous council meetings have been given to borough council members and Mayor Tomko, are there any errors or corrections? The minutes stand approved.

Attorney Douglas Rauch from Concord Financial reviewed the proposed "ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF ST. CLAIR, SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, SETTING FORTH ITS INTENT TO ISSUE ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION NOTE, SERIES OF 2017, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED FOUR MILLION NINE HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND DOLLARS".

Attorney Rauch explained adoption of the ordinance does for things. It approves the financing project, accepts the proposal from First Citizens Community Bank, accepts certain federal and state law covenants, and authorizes the proper borough officials to sign the document. Solicitor Brennan reviewed the document and it is a good deal. On a motion made by Larish, seconded by W. Dempsey, to authorize the ordinance as prepared by the bond counsel to refinance our debt. . A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT: BURKE- YES, T. DEMPSEY- YES, W. DEMPSEY-YES, HOUSEKNECHT-YES, PETROZINO – YES, AND LARISH-YES. The motion was approved.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Tomko stated the March snow storm was one of the worst in his memory. He extended thanks on behalf of the borough to the employees and officials for their good work during this snow storm. Due to the work of Deputy Superintendent William Umbenhaur and the street department crew, emergency vehicles were able to get anywhere in town during the height of the storm. Electric Light Superintendent Petrozino had his crew ready in case a power outage occurred. And Emergency Management Coordinator Vincent Alessi had made preparations, in case of the worst case scenario; we lost power from a trunk line coming into the borough. Older residents would have to be evacuated to a warm place. The Police Department was on board and ready to help wherever needed. The residents and businesses on Second and Hancock Streets cooperated by moving their vehicles.

On March 25, 2017, I officiated at a wedding of a Paul Dellock and Susan Betak.

The residents living on the Burma Road contacted me of the noise that the J brakes are making from the truck traffic. Copies of sample ordinances from Pine Grove and Kulpmont Borough were given to the borough solicitor for consideration.

The mayor is reviewing new rules and guidelines in regard to the fire police.

Mayor Tomko expressed his support for the renewal of the Police Protection Agreement to provide police protection to East Norwegian Township for \$75,000 a year for a five year period.

On a motion made by Burke, seconded by Houseknecht, to accept the report; approved.

Council President Larish concurred with the mayor's snow storm report. He was in contact with the Mayor on several occasions. President Larish cancelled recycling collection for Thursday and Friday of that week so the street crew could concentrate in clearing the intersections of large piles of snow. These snow piles were creating a hazard to traffic as they obstruct the vision of oncoming vehicles.

**BOROUGH SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Brennan reported the agreement has been returned by Mr. Donaldson for the property located at 120 N. Third Street. A hearing will be scheduled.

The Limited Less Mobile bankruptcy is generating a lot of paperwork. The company is restructuring and selling off some of its assets. They have to [provide us with information because we are one of their creditors. But, 99% of the documentation does not apply to us.

The state mediator would like to meet with borough officials on Monday, April 10 to begin the Teamsters Union negotiations. Council President Larish will attend representing the borough.

On a motion made by Burke, seconded by T. Dempsey, to accept the report; approved.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by W. Dempsey, to approve the report; approved.

Engineer Baldwin reported in regard to the damaged garage roof a recommendation will be made to replace the whole roof, with an alternate bid for a metal roof, the number of warranty years, and bids to replace the lower roof.

A discussion was held on applying for grant funds to build a better flood plain model to determine if the area designated as a flood plain area matches those formulated by FEMA. Conducting the study would cost between \$25,000 to \$35,000 and would be conducted in several phases. The ultimate goal is to reduce the size of the flood plain footprint; however, the results of the study could increase its size. After a lengthy discussion, council tabled the issue for further study.

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT**

On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by Burke, borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

Councilman Dempsey asked if safety mulch can be placed in the playgrounds before the next meeting. Council President Larish agreed.

#### **ELECTRIC LIGHT DEPARTMENT REPORT**

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, Borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by Burke, borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

#### **TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

#### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

On a motion made by T. Dempsey, seconded by Petrozino, borough council unanimously approved the report and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

#### **ZONING DEPARTMENT REPORT**

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, the report was unanimously approved by Borough Council and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

On a motion made by Houseknecht, seconded by T. Dempsey, the report was unanimously approved by Borough Council and it was made part of the minutes by reference.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The St. Clair Fish and Game announced the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2017 beginning at 1:00 pm. The organization thanked borough council for its donation last year and again asked for the borough's annual stipend to the Easter Egg Hung.

John Percala submitted a letter requesting permission to stop using St. Clair Borough Sanitation services. He would take his garbage to a dumpster located in another municipality where he owned the building. Solicitor Brennan responded that he would discuss the issue with Mr. Percala.

On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by Houseknecht, to accept communications; approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

On a motion made by T. Dempsey, seconded by W. Dempsey, to amend the resolution adopted last month to include the soft cost of the recreation project for an additional \$10,000. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN WITH

**THE FOLLOWING RESULT: BURKE- YES, T. DEMPSEY-YES, W. DEMPSEY-YES, HOUSEKNECHT-YES, PETROZINO – YES, AND LARISH-YES. The motion was approved.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, to authorize the annual donation of \$100.00 to the St. Clair Fish and Game for the annual Easter Egg Hunt; approved.**

**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, to appoint Riverview Bank and the Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust as the borough's depositories for borough funds. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT: BURKE- YES, T. DEMPSEY-YES, W. DEMPSEY-YES, HOUSEKNECHT-YES, PETROZINO – YES, AND LARISH-YES. The motion was approved.**

**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, to offer conditional employment to Alissa M. Marrogelle as a school crossing guard pending the passing of a physical examination and the necessary background checks; approved.**

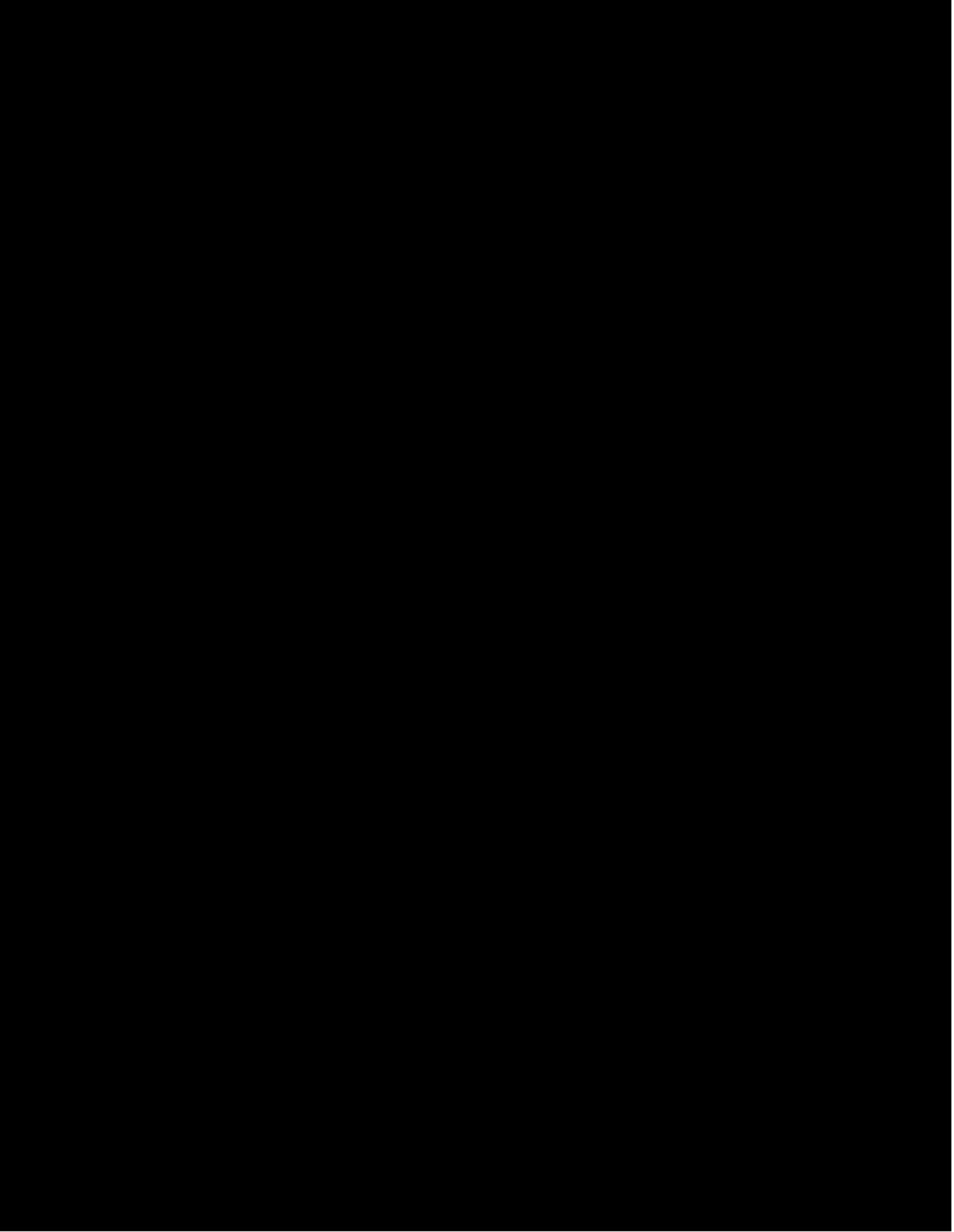
**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by T. Dempsey, to offer conditional employment to Christine Alessi as a school crossing guard pending the passing of a physical examination and the necessary background checks; approved.**

**On a motion made by T. Dempsey, seconded by W. Dempsey, to offer conditional employment to Demi Tucker as a school crossing guard pending the passing of a physical examination and the necessary background checks; approved.**

**On a motion made by W. Dempsey, seconded by Houseknecht, to accept the offer from East Norwegian Township to, subject to the preparation of the agreement, provide police protection service for \$75,000 per year for a five year period. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULT: BURKE- YES, T. DEMPSEY-YES, W. DEMPSEY-YES, HOUSEKNECHT-YES, PETROZINO – YES, AND LARISH-YES. The motion was approved.**

**Council President James Larish authorized Councilman W. Dempsey and Michael Petrozino to investigate the purchase of new time clocks for the borough employees.**

**Council held a discussion on purchasing a street sealer. The idea being instead of paying over \$30,000 a year for a third party to seal the streets,**





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April 4, 2017

Mr. James Larish  
Council President  
St. Clair Borough Council  
16 S Third Street  
St. Clair, PA 17970

**Subject: Consulting Engineer's Report (CER)  
Project No. 30839.02**

Dear Mr. Larish:

The following is the status of engineering services performed by our firm as of this date:

**30839.03, Task 8 – Grant Applications**

2017 DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2)

The 2017 grant application period for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (**C2P2**) is open with an entry deadline of **April 12, 2017**. At your March 2017 meeting, Council passed a resolution to apply for funding to replace the damaged and aged play structure within the Third Street Playground at a construction cost of \$30,000. Replacing this structure with a new, slightly larger structure will essentially be the final piece to complete the revitalization of the Third Street Playground area.

We are preparing the necessary plans, estimate, and supporting documents to accompany the application. We do request that any letters of support be provided to our office by Monday, April 10, 2017. We also request that Council reconsider the total applied amount to include soft costs such as engineering, inspection, and advertising (which are eligible expenses). Although the total grant application of \$40,000 would be greater than previously authorized, including soft costs in the grant application would essentially reduce the Borough's net costs.

Attached is the formal resolution authorizing the grant application to be signed by the Council President. Provided separately is a commitment letter which is to be signed by the Council President authorizing the grant amount and defining the Borough's contribution if awarded. The signed resolution and the signed commitment letter are to be included with the grant application.

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

**30732.20, Task 1 – Third Street Playground – Engineering Survey/Design**

The Borough was awarded a 2015 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR) Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grant for repairs and upgrades to the existing 5-12yo play area. We are finalizing our design with the intent to advertise in the next few months. We are evaluating options to position the Lion's head water fountain considering ADA accessibility and the proximity of water service. The Borough Secretary is coordinating a meeting with the Lions to discuss location and installation alternatives. Once the fountain location is determined, the design plans can be finalized.