

Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Gordon Borough Council was held on Tuesday, November 15th, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. This meeting was duly advertised and moved from the original date of November 8th due to Election Day. Councilpersons Present: Valerie Stitzer Dornsife, Richard Babb, Shannon Dumboski, Brian Hansbury and Jason Quick. Also Present: Mayor George Brocius, Code Enforcement Officer Robin Ennis, Republican-Herald Reporter John Usalis, Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Borough Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder, and Assistant Linda Gately. Citizens: Ramon Soto and Leo Rauber. Absent: Council members Jeffrey Hoffman and Michael Rader.

Council Vice President Valerie Dornsife called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motions by Brian Hansbury and Jason Quick that council accept minutes from the regular meetings on September 13 and October 11 as presented by the Secretary-Treasurer Paul Snyder carried unanimously.

General Account financial report: October opening balance \$114,744.⁶⁸; receipts of \$4,886.¹¹ including \$42.⁰⁸ checking interest; expenditures of \$14,249.⁹⁵ with outstanding checks worth \$835.⁶³; October 2016 ending balance: \$104,545.²¹. The MPB General Account CD 0830 balance is \$14,310.⁶³. The MPB Muni Fund 3430 had no activity; balance: \$2,173.⁵⁵. BB&T General Account CD 8835 balance: \$5,063.⁰⁰. Motor License Fund October opening balance was \$61,731.⁵⁸; receipt of \$1,686.¹⁸ from General Account, interest \$23.⁷⁴, no expenditures; end of October MLF balance: \$63,441.⁵⁰. BB&T MLF CD 0018 balance: \$83,974.⁶⁶. Community Hall Improvement Fund balance remains \$1,239.⁸⁶ with no activity. Motion by Shannon Dumboski for council to accept the Treasurer's September-October financial reports for both the General Account and Motor License Fund as read by Secretary-Treasurer Snyder carried unanimously. Council was given a line-item YTD budget to review in consideration of the 2017 budget for all accounts.

General account invoices for payment to date: Aqua PA (\$418), Riedlinger (\$753), Entech (\$465), Groody Oil (\$394), PSAB winter maintenance webinar (\$40), Direct Energy (\$90.⁷⁵), PA Dept. of Revenue (\$148.¹⁸), IRS (\$1,241.²⁷), Tom's Car Care (\$738.⁹⁸ & \$50.⁵⁰), Berkheimer-EIT (\$90.⁷⁵), Butler Twp. (\$5,500), MPB roof loan (\$802.⁷⁸), Paul's Carpet Care (\$315), PPL street lights (\$1,008.⁴⁹), and Lavas (\$7.¹⁷) tax collection commission. Hansbury motion to pay general account invoices carried unanimously.

Sewage Revenue Account financial report: \$180,238.⁷⁹ opening balance 10/1/16, interest receipt of \$72.²², Sewage quarterly property bill receipts of \$18,839.²⁰ (inc. \$278 from Portnoff) & penalty receipts of \$366.⁸⁰ (inc. \$208 from Portnoff), misc. reimbursement of \$285.⁹⁰; balance 10/31/16: \$199,802.⁹¹. Sewage Revenue MPB CD 0430 balance: \$79,014.²⁰; Sewage Revenue MPB CD 0431 balance: \$85,853.⁸⁶. Sewage Op./Maint. Acct. financial report: \$28,725.⁹⁵ opening balance 10/1/16, receipt of \$9.⁷⁵ interest, expenditures of \$8,422.⁹⁶; balance 10/31/16 was \$20,539.⁴⁰. Sewage Reserve MPB CD 6530 balance with no activity: \$70,091.⁰⁸. Hansbury motion to accept all Sewage financial reports as read carried unanimously.

Motion by Hansbury approving a \$50 donation as received by Snyder for Ashland Public Library carried unanimously. Snyder issued two building permits and one demolition permit. Snyder reported the Citizens' Fire Company Ladies' Auxiliary will hold their Christmas Party December 14th at 3 p.m. in the social hall.

Council agreed that due to Quick's part time status and other job commitments, Paul Dean would again be used to help with snow removal. Snyder asked Quick for help attaching both borough trucks' plows to prepare for winter. Quick stated the borough should discontinue the practice of having two men in a truck. Snyder replied that an extra person is necessary to point out hazards and scoop when stuck. Delineators should be placed in the ground to note drops and other hazards to the plow. Butler Township's COSTARs contract will include Gordon's anti-skid material. Our salt spreader holds 1250 lbs. of salt. It has motor hydraulic fluid leaks. Snyder added that the borough currently has no way to load; a triaxle load is 25T. Hansbury suggested looking into a storage container and a front-end loader loaned from UFP.

SCEMA's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the SwiftReach 911 emergency alerts notification system was signed after a motion by Hansbury carried unanimously. The program allows SCEMA or participating local municipalities to send messages through text, e-mail, landline phone or a mobile app. Residents receive local trash pickup changes, no parking bans, snow emergency routes, water/sewer services, severe weather warnings, alerts, evacuations and road closures. There are no fees to subscribe.

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Solicitor Christopher Riedlinger, Esq., is waiting for Schuylkill County Municipal Authority's attorney Patel and director Caulfield to respond to sewage transfer agreement revisions regarding current accounts. The borough is served by SCMA for the treatment of its sewage at its nearby Gordon wastewater treatment plant. The sewage collection system, including one pump station, is owned and maintained by the borough since its installation in the early 1990s, when the borough secured a loan for the construction of the collection system, on which we still make payments. When the Gordon plant was constructed, its two customers were Gordon and the Federal Correctional Institution-Minersville. The Commonwealth Environmental Systems landfill became a customer and participated in helping fund expanding the plant, with the opportunity for Highridge Business Park to tie in. As the system ages, the need for repairs and general operation has become more taxing. Under the agreement, SCMA will refinance the debt in its name and make payments. By doing so, it would free the borough from having any type of capital expenditure contribution for plant upgrades that are necessary within five years. Sewage customers are currently paying \$80 per quarter. The move will cause an increase in customer rates, which have not changed since the collection system was created 26 years ago. Don Cuff of Entech Engineering will be contacted to provide the Exhibit A sewage system assets required, an extensive and time-consuming task. When approved by both sides, SCMA will notify the current sewage system customers.

Riedlinger will help CEO Ennis with an administrative search warrant, to be issued once signed by district justice Hale and a police officer. Monaghan's citation will be withdrawn since the property was cleaned up. An elderly McKnight Street owner contacted the office for help with a neighbor who blew raked leaves back onto her property after she had spent hours working on clearing them.


Mayor George Brocious read Butler Township Police Chief Ed Tarantelli's October report, with 41 calls and complaints. The mayor added he received another complaint about a 700 block Hobart Street resident burning aspenite, causing respiratory problems in the neighborhood. Riedlinger suggested contacting DEP/EPA. Brocious recommended an air quality monitor be affixed on an adjoining apartment. The original chimney was extended 8' as requested, but the permit was issued for coal and wood.

Quick presented four contractor HVAC recommendations for review, with no action taken. The decision on what type of system must be duly advertised for bids if the state \$19,400 threshold is not met. Estimates varied based on options requested, ranging from \$19,500 to \$32k. Brocious and Quick will also contact SCEMA's John Matz to look into available grants for a generator and HVAC for the municipal building and attached fire company and hall, used as an emergency shelter. Quick also reported that he is donating to the borough a new four-camera security system that will be installed by him in the near future.

The PPL street light HPSV to LED replacement services program agreement was presented, along with Resolution 11152016 and a complete list of 78 street lights, EDUs, wattage and locations, as required. The waiting list once fully executed is approximately 70 days. PPL will replace bulbs older than ten years at no cost to the borough and save \$22.⁴⁶ per month, providing a wider visibility spread. The new street light account number 2140083005 must be given to Direct Energy once the transition is complete. Motion by Quick to approve the resolution and agreement was approved unanimously.

Under Public Participation, Ramon Soto noted Leo Rauber's motorist warning signs are becoming effective. Quick was praised for his work cleaning out the borough garage. Quick thanked citizens Ramon Soto and Leo Rauber for their help. Quick also received \$40.⁸⁰ for hauled scrap from the garage. Quick said the bank along Little Mahanoy Creek at Gordon Municipal Park was cleaned of rubbish and debris, thanking Rich Babb and Leo Rauber. No Dumping signs were put up; it will note on Facebook that violators will be fined.

The next Borough Council meeting is Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Municipal Building. There being no further business, a motion was made by Dumboski at 8:15 p.m. to adjourn this meeting of Gordon Borough Council carried unanimously.

Attest:  Paul L. Snyder, Secretary-Treasurer November 15, 2016