

**HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH
LUZERNE COUNTY
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
April 17, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Harveys Lake Borough Council was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 7:45 P.M. at the Harveys Lake General Municipal Building, 4875 Memorial Highway, Harveys Lake, PA, 18618.

Council President Radel called the meeting to order and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Radel announced the meeting tonight was being tape-recorded and if anyone in the audience had a recorder to please advise Council at this point. Sarah Hite of the Dallas Post indicated that she had a recorder.

Roll call:

Clarence Hogan	Mayor	Present
Larry Radel	President	Present
Fran Kopko	Vice President	Present
Boyd Barber	Council Member	Present
Michell'e Boice	Council Member	Present
Tom Kehler	Council Member	Present
Ed Kelly	Council Member	Present
Amy Williams	Council Member	Present
Charles McCormick	Attorney	Present
Susan R. Sutton	Borough Secretary	Present

****Indicates motions made**

****Councilmember Kopko made the motion to waive the reading and accept the Minutes of the March 20, 2012 Public Worksession and the March 20, 2012 Regular Council meeting, seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion carried unanimously.**

****Councilmember Boice made a motion to change the grant by Resolution and reapply to use the grant money to update the current Police Department building and keep it in the same location, seconded by Councilmember Kehler. Roll call vote: Kelly, can't we put it on a referendum like we did before with Sunset Beach? I am for this motion, yes; Kehler, yes; Boice, yes; Williams, no; Barber, no; Kopko, no; Radel, no. The motion did not pass.**

****Councilmember Kopko made a motion to accept the grant as written with the LSA grant description, seconded by Councilmember Williams. Roll call vote; Kelly, abstained; Kehler, no; Boice, no; Williams, yes; Barber, yes; Kopko, yes; Radel, yes. The motion carried.**

Fred Lubnow was here to update Council and the Residents on the proposed Floating Wetland Islands. He stated that he would be meeting with DEP in the near future to discuss the Wetland Islands permits. He stated that he had heard from 6 residents, some for and some against the Wetland Islands to be placed near their property. He said that when he has a final list he will submit it to the Borough Office. A map will then be available as well.

A resident asked how many islands are planned. He stated that five were planned. He discussed again that they will be anchored and close to shore and have local plants planted on them. Their life expectancy has been initially set at ten years.

A resident asked if purple loose strife was going to be planted and Mr. Lubnow assured him that it would not. Only native plants will be used.

Council member Kehler stated that recently council had looked at a problem with gravel at Maple Street. Mr. Lubnow stated that he had in fact discussed it with his engineers and they will be looking at it more closely to determine if it will fit somewhere in the grant in the near future.

Resident Jason Miller asked if the Sandy Beach area had been looked at as a possible location. Mr. Lubnow stated that he was looking for public input from everyone. Anyone wishing to give input should contact him directly or through the borough secretary.

Mr. Lubnow stated that the islands would be used to absorb and nutrients, encourage fishing habitats, and to be aesthetically pleasing.

Resident Jason Miller stated his concern that the ice would be a problem especially in the Sandy Beach area. He did not want the islands to become floating ice ponds. Mr. Lubnow assured him that the floating wetland islands would be anchored and not freely floating around the lake.

Resident Jason Miller asked if his opinion and those of other residents actually mattered. Mr. Lubnow assured him that it did.

Councilmember Barber stated that he had read an article in the newspaper where president Obama told people about the possibility of burning algae for fuel. The president also recommended that we checked the error in our tires and keep our cars tuned up as well. Mr. Lubnow stated that this was the wrong kind of algae that could not be used for burning.

Resident Millie Monk wanted to know why a company that is not local is doing the work at a cost, when she feels someone in the community could do it and keep the money here local.

Resident Diane Dwyer stated that Princeton Hydro has done a fantastic job in the past and the reason we even have these grants. She applauds them for a job well done.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

The floor was opened for Citizens to be heard.

Resident Bill Monk stated that everyone including council members should remember to follow Roberts Rules of Order so that every one can understand what is going on in a discussion.

Resident Millie Monk wanted to thank Fran Kopko for following Roberts Rules of Order.

Resident Michael Daley stated that there is a community-wide problem with speeding in this community. That cars fly around the lake. This seems to be a major problem. It is one of the worst things about the lake. It is anti social behavior and it makes our roads treacherous.

President Radel stated that the police chief has been looking in to grants for devices to help address this problem.

Diane Dwyer stated that she was asking again for council to appoint a chairperson to oversee the police department. In the current form of borough government, the mayor is a weak position. He has been given a lot of power that he shouldn't have. He should have a chair person on council that he is required to go to for decisions so that the chair person can take it back to council. Because it is the council that works not the mayor. OK, so once again she is asking council to appoint a councilmember to the police department.

Resident Jason Miller said that he didn't want people to think that he was anti police. But he wanted to say this, his wife has a good job, and they pay their taxes to Berkheimer. Does any of that money come back to Harveys Lake borough?

Councilmember Boice answered yes.

Mr. Miller said that he looks at that and wants to know what he gets from that because he lives on a state road. OK, so he got their Christmas tree picked up by the road department, and they have a police force. And he hates to say it, and it is not against the current police force or against Charlie, but if he made five calls in eight years, only one time did they even get close to a satisfactory response. So he is a little sore on that subject. So if Charlie or one of the council members wants to talk to him after the meeting he would be glad to discuss it with them. He commented about the size of the community with the amount of money that's being paid on the police budget.

Councilmember Boice stated that she also is not anti police. And she is proud of the fact that they had been able to maintain a fulltime police department. But it is getting to the

point with the budget, she has pulled some figure's out that she shared tonight from the budget, and it is costing us more than a third of the budget to maintain our full time police department. And when you are running a deficit for the third year in a row and you are shutting off street lights and giving up council's stipend to try to reduce the deficit, and then you want to spend money; she is very passionate about it, when she was out campaigning running for this seat last fall, a big issue with people was the taxes in this economy. Because they had a tax increase here, and the garbage fee went up, and now the County is going up, and the school district all are going to be raising taxes and this was an issue, a very real issue, and if we don't have the money how are we going to fund these things. She doesn't want anyone to be under the impression that she is anti police or anti children for heaven's sake. That would be ridiculous. But she does not want it to be said that she is anti police.

Mr. Miller stated that the police deserve a decent place to work. He has only ever been as far as to walk into the foyer where the glass is to try to speak to someone. They should have decent running water. They should have showers. Don't get him wrong. But somewhere let's take a look at this.

President Radel thanked Mr. Miller and told him if there is ever a problem he can always call the chief or the mayor and resolve any issues.

Councilmember Boice stated that if he wasn't getting any resolution he should feel to contact someone on council since we don't have a liaison.

A resident asked if anything had been done about the motorcycle issue that was brought up last year, especially now that the police department is going to be moved, and the trouble has already started on the weekends.

President Radel said that he agrees and he feels for her and with her. We have been talking to the chief about other options to curb the noise behavior. It is very difficult to enforce the current noise regulations, and establish what is a baseline and when it is too loud. So we have been discussing other alternatives with the chief to get rid of the excess noise, you know, motorcycles that have open pipes. So he will talk to him and try to get something together and scheduled because he does feel for her and knows exactly what she's talking about.

Councilmember Barber stated that if we lose our freedoms, and he feels that we're going to. When they take our guns off of us, look out. It's coming.

The floor was closed.

REPORTS FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Tax Collector's report for the month of March was available on the back table.

The Borough Secretary reported that during the month of March the Borough received

\$28,484.57 from Berkheimer.

Also, for the month of March, \$59,384.04 was collected for current trash payments, \$23 for garbage stickers, \$4,694.46 in past due collections for a monthly total of \$64,101.50 for the month of March.

REPORTS FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Finance: Councilmember Kelly gave the financial report including: Total available cash is \$337,103.78; total restricted cash is \$129,377.00; total cash of \$166,480.78. He stated that we were still in a deficit.

Police: Mayor Hogan's report included revenue of \$868.64, officers responded to 134 calls driving 2464 miles.

Residents should report all suspicious activities. And residents are reminded to get their burn permits.

Roads: Councilmember Barber gave his report including that the Road Dept. used 126 gallons of fuel.

****Councilmember Kopko made the motion to accept the reports from Special Committees, Elected Officials and Appointed Officials, seconded by Councilmember Boice. The motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

****Councilmember Kopko made a motion to allow the Harveys Lake Fire Police to participate in the annual Sweet Valley parade and events on Memorial Day weekend, seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion carried unanimously.**

****Councilmember Kopko made a motion to accept the American Asphalt costars pricing quote for asphalt, seconded by Councilmember Barber. The motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

President Radel asked if anyone on Council had any old business they wished to discuss.

Council member Williams wanted to thank her husband Rich Williams and the Harveys Lake Fire Chief David Davis for all the work they did to fight the decision of 911 to change the dispatch protocols recently. Charles McCormick went with her down to meet with Robert Lawton and 911 to discuss the disagreement. Mr. Lawton instructed 911 to adhere to the call boxes and dispatch protocols that the fire company submitted. She wanted to thank everyone for their support.

She also stated that the Easter egg hunt at the little league field was well attended by 130 people. She thanked all the volunteers for the successful event.

****Councilmember Kelly made a motion to pay the Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$109,112.44, seconded by Councilmember Kopko. The motion carried unanimously**

President Radel asked if anyone on council had an upcoming Community Event they would like to share.

It was announced that Earth Day was coming up on April 21 and the Environmental Advisory Council is holding a cleanup day from noon until 3:00 PM. Those interested in participating should meet at Our Lady of Victory church at noon.

****Councilmember Kelly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilmember Kopko. The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Susan R. Sutton, Borough Secretary