

**HARVEYS LAKE BOROUGH  
LUZERNE COUNTY  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
July 15, 2008**

The Regular Meeting of the Harveys Lake Borough Council was held on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 at 7:30 P.M. at the Harveys Lake General Municipal Building, Route 415, Sunset, Harveys Lake, PA.

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

President Lucarino announced the meeting tonight was being tape-recorded and if anyone in the audience had a recorder to please advise Council at this point. There was no response from the audience.

**Roll call:**

Richard Boice	Mayor	Present
Lawrence Lucarino	President	Present
Diane Dwyer	Vice President	Absent
Edward Kelly	Council Member	Present
Clarence Hogan	Council Member	Present
Charles Musial	Council Member	Present
Carole Samson	Council Member	Present
Betty Jane West	Council Member	Absent
Charles McCormick	Attorney	Present
Susan R. Sutton	Borough Secretary	Present

**\*\*Indicates motions made.**

**\*\*Councilman Hogan made the motion to waive the reading of the minutes and accept the Minutes of the June 17, 2008 Public Works Session, June 17, 2008 Regular Council Meeting and June 23, 2008 special meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Samson. The motion carried unanimously.**

**INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

**Diane Dwyer** sent a note letting the council and residents know that she is unable to attend the July Council meeting due to her granddaughter's surgery that just took place. Although the surgery went well, she is still in critical condition.

**DCNR** sent us a survey to fill out to help them plan a series of workshops focusing on Community Forest Management in the NE region of the state.

**The Pennsylvania Economy League** sent us a letter to let us know they are available to meet with municipal officials to discuss the Early Intervention Program, managed and funded by Dept. of Community and Economic Development, that is designed to help municipalities establish short term and long term financial and management strategies that strengthen the fiscal capacity of local government.

### **OUTGOING CORRESPONDANCE**

There were three letters written to the Luzerne County Commissioners from several of the council members, and one from the Mayor that was read to the residents.

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing out of urgency, prior to our monthly meeting, in regard to the recently received reassessment notices in our community. I do so because of the deluge of phone calls received at both-my home and office. I cannot go to the gas station, the store, or out side without being approached by one of our residents. People in our community are outraged at the values placed on their properties. Many are distressed.

The entire reassessment process in our area seems flawed! My own is full of errors that have a great impact on the value of my property! In checking on just a few other properties in my immediate neighborhood there are stark errors.

The monthly meeting of the Harveys Lake Protective Association was held last night at Grotto Pizza and had a standing room only crowd. People cannot stop talking about the errors and the fact that there seems to be no uniformity whatsoever in values. People are desperate for answers and I certainly have none for them. The new values are astronomical.

Quite frankly, I have senior citizens out here who tell me they cannot sleep at night because they cannot begin to pay these taxes. I have working families that are barely hanging on at the current taxes, let alone the new assessments.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP AND ATTENTION NOW!** You need to take a serious look at the reassessments at Harveys Lake and someone needs to come out here to a special meeting to answer the questions! How can a summer cottage sold for \$56,000 on the open market just 2 years ago triple in value? How can a townhouse sold 4 years ago on the open market double in value? Why is there no conformity whatsoever in the value placed on shoreline properties? It is my belief that our entire community should be redone, considering the errors.

I hope to hear from someone soon.

Respectfully, Richard H. Boice, Mayor

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Dear County Commissioners,

As a Council Member and a full time Police Officer at Harveys Lake Borough, I have been stopped numerous times and asked by our residents what is the Council going to do regarding our reassessment.

I have told them they must appeal their assessments to try and get some relief from the high increase. Many of these residents will be put in a financial bind if they cannot get their taxes lowered.

I urge you to step in and help our Borough residents by having another reassessment done here at the Lake. Too many people are at risk of losing their homes and properties.

Please consider a reassessment for our borough residents here at the Lake.

Sincerely, Charles Musial, Councilman

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Dear Commissioners~ Pietralli, Skrepenak and Urban,

As a Council Member of Harveys Lake Borough, I am urging to become more personally involved in the reassessment issues at Harveys Lake Borough.

The inequalities of some of the new reassessments are overwhelming. Many of our residents have contacted me in an effort to have this process challenged and possibly have a new reassessment done.

There are some residents who feel they will no longer to be able to maintain their homes with the increased taxes. Although no one likes to see taxes rise, everyone understands it must be done, but not by tripling the current tax. People on fixed incomes simply do not have those kinds of funds available.

Residents will be forced to sell their homes at inflated prices that they will never be able to obtain and end up losing their homes to foreclosures. Then where do they go, what do they do.

I am asking you to please intervene for these people so they will not lose their homes and may finish their lives living in the homes that have been their residence for their entire lives.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter.

Sincerely, Carole J. Samson, Councilwoman Harveys Lake Borough

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Dear Commissioners,

As President of Harveys Lake Borough Council, I am writing you with serious concerns that I have with the 21st Century reassessment values recently sent out to our residents. The vast majorities of our assessments have serious errors and are completely

inconsistent with properties of like value. There doesn't seem to be any consistent criteria applied to the residential properties. I am urging you to personally look into this matter.

We understand that the reassessment is a necessary step in the fiscal responsibility of our county. However, until these inconsistencies are rectified, this reassessment is in no way ready to move forward. Putting the responsibility and appraisal costs on the individual Residents are a gross disservice to our constituents. I believe these errors should be corrected and the reassessments should be reissued before the 2009 tax bills are issued.

Sincerely, Lawrence Lucarino, Council President

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

President Lucarino asked if there was anyone in the audience wishing to address council.

**Resident John O'Brian** asked why Marina Drive is not on his GPS unit.

**Michelle Boice** reminded everyone that there is a County Commissioners meeting Wednesday evening, July 16 at 5:00 pm in Ashley at the Earth Conservancy building. She encouraged every resident that is able to attend.

**Gerald Kovalski** stated that Tim Barr has made comments singling out Harveys Lake Borough and he should be asked to apologize.

### **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Borough Secretary reported that during the month of June \$16,803.36 was received from Berkheimer.

The Tax Collector's report is available on the back table.

### **REPORTS FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

**Finance:** There is \$424,956.06 in available cash, \$226,661.05 in restricted cash, for a total of \$651,617.11 in total cash.

**Police:** Mayor Richard Boice read the report from May. The Police worked a total of 758 hours with total miles driven of 5,018. The 162 police calls included 9 parking tickets, 22 traffic citations, 1 non-traffic citations, 3 arrests and 4 written warnings. Total money received from the Magistrate was \$434.18.

**Roads:** Councilman Musial reported that road department was able to remove 11 beaver dams on Harveys Creek and got the water out of the basements of the residents. He gave a report on the current projects, stolen signs were replaced, and the summer help has started working. We hope to have a report on recycling next month. There was regular

maintenance done on the vehicles.

**Community Activities:** Councilman Hogan reported that there will be a dance held by the Fire Company on July 26 at the Irem Temple Country Club.

**Zoning Hearing Board Report:** Councilwoman Samson reported that the Harveys Lake Zoning Board postponed their July meeting due to a request from the Collini's, and rescheduled the meeting for August 5, 2008.

**Sewer Authority Liaison:** Councilwoman Samson reported that the Sewer Authority met on July 2, 2008 and paid bills and payroll totaling \$36,789. Included in the report was Mayor Boice's report that daily maintenance continues on all 14 stations with no new problems reported, and that new flow meters were installed on a 30 day trial basis. Fifty boathouses will be inspected in the near future checking for leaks.

**EAC:** There was no report this month.

**Homecoming Committee:** Councilwoman Samson reported on the Homecoming Weekend will be held on August 8,9,10 2008. There will be a dinner dance on Friday evening from 8 to 12 PM at the Harveys Lake American Legion.

Tickets are \$25 and include a buffet dinner, beer and soda and a live band.

The Fire Company is working on their share of the Homecoming. They will have Children's day on Saturday, and are also in charge of the parade.

This year there will be a Beach Party on Saturday night at the Old Sandy Beach Bottom from 5 to 10 pm. Bring your own blanket and chairs and food will be available for purchase or bring your own. There will be a DJ.

Saturday will begin with a breakfast at the American Legion from 8 AM to Noon. There will be a pie eating contest and a chili cook-off. The Lake Market Place will be at the Beach and will include craft and food vendors. Little Mr. and Miss Harveys Lake will be chosen. There is a parade at 1:30 PM. The jars to vote for the Kiss the Fish contest will be placed around the lake in various venues.

Check the webpage for more information.

**\*\*Councilman Kelly made the motion to accept the reports from Special Committees, Elected Officials and Appointed Officials, seconded by Councilman Musial. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**\*\* Councilman Musial made a motion to extend the JP Mascaro contract for year**

**2009 at \$203,688 and the year 2010 at \$217,008, seconded by Councilman Hogan. The motion carried unanimously.**

**\*\*Councilman Hogan made a motion for the Fire Police to participate in a Mass Casualty Disaster Drill to be conducted on October 4, 2008 at 10:30 am located at the Lake Lehman High school, seconded by Councilman Musial. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

President Lucarino asked if anyone had any old business they wished to discuss.

Mayor Richard Boice stated that all boathouses will be checked for the integrity of their lateral connections to determine if there are any leaks.

**\*\*Councilwoman Samson made a motion to pay the bills and Payroll in the amount of \$58,703.52, seconded by Councilman Musial. The motion carried unanimously.**

Councilman Lucarino asked if anyone had anything else to add to the meeting.

Mayor Richard Boice thanked Councilman Musial and George Hogan for taking care of the problem at the Kriels, and the Kuhns where the beavers were damming up the water. He has tried for some time to get something done, and was very frustrated. He commends them both for a job well done.

**\*\*Councilman Musial made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Samson. The motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

Susan R. Sutton, Borough Secretary