

**BOROUGH OF EAST GREENVILLE**  
***BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***  
**November 7, 2016**

**Call to Order:** Council acting President Ms. Hunsinger called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m.

**Attendance:** The following Council members were present: Joseph Arahill, Tracey Hunsinger, Robert McCluskie, Jennifer Moran, Ryan Pugh, Leon Steinert and Marita Thomson. Also present were Mayor Ryan Sloyer, Atty. Kramer, Solicitor, James Fry, Borough Manager, and Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary/Treasurer.

**Visitors:** 76 visitors were recorded.

**Public Comment:** Jeanne Cove from Upper Perkiomen Library asked Council to remember them when preparing their budget. She handed out a calendar of events for November and gave an overview of programs available to the public. She thanked the Borough for being a steady supporter in the past which in turn helps them get state aid.

Luanne Stauffer with Upper Perk Valley Chamber of Commerce and PerkUp, addressed Council concerning the installation of wayfinding signs. In completing a grant for a match from Montgomery County Commissioners for the wayfinding project, the grant requires that PerkUp work with a municipality. Since East Greenville was already on the PennDOT liaison team, she was hoping the Borough would serve as their partner for this project. The agreement comes from the Montgomery County Planning website and a resolution is included that states PerkUp Corporation will take responsibility for all administrative tasks and accounting for the audit so that the Borough is in no way held responsible for any administration component of the grant or financial obligation. They had a similar agreement with Upper Hanover and Marlborough Townships in the early planning stages before they were a 501(c)(3) corporation. Due to the timing of the grant, she asked for Council's consideration this evening. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the PerkUp Corporation and East Greenville Borough agreement for funding as well as the resolution authorizing the submission of grant application for the 2016 Round of the Montgo 2040 Implementation Grant Program. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Terry Ottinger, 422 W. Sixth Street, thanked Council for working on the nature meadow across from her house and expressed appreciation for the Girl Scouts involved in taking care of the flower area.

**Solicitor Items:** Tabled.

**Water Committee:** Mr. Fry advised that the Grid Bee mixing system has been installed in the tank and is operating. Hydrant flushing was completed for the fall. Parts are on order for rebuilding the fire line meter at Allentown Refrigeration. The H2O grant application for the sed basin repairs was filed. Still looking to purchase a portable pump to be used at water main breaks and at the water plant. There is \$10,313 in the budget to support this upgrade.

**Zoning/Planning/Codes:** Mr. Arahill advised there was \$905.76 received in permit fees last month. There were no zoning hearings.

**Road Committee:** Ms. Hunsinger advised the Road Supervisor's report is on file and there was no update for the traffic light at Fourth and Main.

Mayor Sloyer questioned if all the money was expended for Road Maintenance this year. Mr. Fry advised that so far \$73,000 has been committed. They are planning on milling and patching with the remainder of the money in

the budget. Mr. Fry added that AMS over quoted their road surfacing work which left the Borough with almost \$20,000 left for additional patching which will help prepare the roads for work next year.

Ms. Thomson advised residents of the Upper Hanover Township announcement that a PennDOT contractor will be performing work on the Rt. 663 Layfield Road bridge over the Perkiomen Creek starting November 14, 2016. The road will be closed and detoured until August 2017.

**Finance Committee:** Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve the bills as submitted, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. Steinert – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. McCluskie – aye, Ms. Moran - aye. Motion carries.

Ms. Thomson made a motion to accept the October 2016 Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Pugh and unanimously approved.

Ms. Thomson gave an overview of the first draft of the 2017 budget. Net revenue and expenses for the Highway Aid Fund is \$73,461.64. The Water Fund budget was running short on revenue so a 5% increase in water rates is proposed for 2017. The water user rate analysis prepared by the engineer when the new infrastructure was put in recommended increases over a period of time. From 2002 to 2017, the recommendation was for a 100% rate increase. The Borough is a little behind schedule in raising rates and will have raised rates 84% with an increase in 2017. An example of an increase for consumption of 15,000 gallons quarterly would be a bill of approximately \$147 increasing to \$154.

There are two drafts for the General Fund. The first one includes expenses for UPPD with net amount of revenue at \$1.5 million and expenses at \$1.7 million with a difference to fund this budget at \$226,887.42. With no other changes, a 2.15 real estate millage increase would be needed to fund the difference. A parcel with an assessment of \$95,000 would see an increase of about \$204. The second draft for the General Fund includes expenses for East Greenville setting up their own police department. This budget could be balanced by taking about \$49,000 from savings. Budget concerns include vehicles that are outdated, earned income tax declining and properties being purchased by the Perkiomen School which reduces the tax base for real estate taxes. Ms. Thomson asked Council to review the budgets for further discussions at upcoming meetings. The budgets should be ready to advertise by the December 5, 2016, Borough Council meeting with a meeting date set later that month to finalize the budget.

**Personnel Committee:** Ms. Hunsinger advised they are accepting letters of interest for a Zoning Hearing Board alternate. Among Council, there is an open seat for alternate on Police Commission.

**Property Committee:**

Mr. Fry advised an item was brought up late next week and asked Bob McCarty to address Council.

Bob McCarty, 518 Washington Street, asked Council if a resident group entitled Strengthen the Upper Perk Community can use the Borough’s dumpster at the garage on Washington Street to dispose of trash they plan to pick up from streets and sidewalks in the Borough. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve use of the Borough dumpster for trash pickup program being instituted by the Borough residents. Seconded by Mr. Steinert and unanimously approved.

**Recycling/Waste Management Report:** Mr. Pugh advised both recycling report and bag sales reports are on file at Borough Hall.

**Sewer Authority:** Nothing.

**Revitalization:** Nothing to report.

**Regional Planning:** Mr. McCluskie advised there was a regional planning meeting last month. The main topic was on the bridges being repaired in the area. The Knight Road bridge is set to open shortly. Peevy and Fruitville Road bridges are in the design phase. There is a map on the Montgomery County Planning website showing what bridges have been completed and what's on the horizon.

**Emergency Management:** Nothing.

**Borough Manager Updates:** Mr. Fry advised there is a Source Water Protection meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2016, at the Upper Hanover Township office.

Leaf collection dates are November 19<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Borough's water treatment plant.

**Correspondence:** A donation request was received for the Hometown Christmas Parade. Mayor Sloyer advised the three boroughs usually split the cost for oranges. The amount budgeted is \$1,000.00. Ms. Thomson made to continue the donation for the Hometown Christmas Parade, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. Steinert – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. McCluskie – aye. Ms. Moran abstained due to her involvement with Hometown Christmas Parade. Motion carries.

**Police Commission Report:** Mayor Sloyer advised that the monthly allocation is \$50,921.40, less the Gazan & John payment that was made on October 3, 2016, for \$382.50.

Mayor Sloyer asked for approval to pay for East Greenville Borough's portion of the recent Police Commission solicitor bill from Gazan & John which amounts to \$433.13. Ms. Thomson made a motion to approve payment of the Gazan & John invoice in the amount of \$433.13 from October 6, 2016, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. Steinert – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – aye, Mr. Arahill – aye, Ms. Hunsinger – aye, Mr. McCluskie – aye, Ms. Moran - aye. Motion carries.

Mayor Sloyer used the 2017 UPPD operating budget as a template to create one for an East Greenville Police Department taking into consideration salaries, commercial insurance package and revenues. The savings to have an East Greenville Police Department in the first year is \$232,426. With estimates for budgets out to 2021, a savings of \$250,000 a year would allow the East Greenville Borough Police Department to grow as needed and put money into infrastructure. Copies of the proposed budgets through 2021 were made available to the public. Engineering quotes were obtained estimating \$50,000 for turning the clubhouse into a Police Department. In the proposed budget there is also a capital loan for \$100,000 to be used for equipment and outfitting of officers.

Mr. Steinert made a motion to rescind the decision to terminate the agreement that leaves the UPPD, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Ms. Thomson asked the other Council members to consider taking time to look at the budgets and the amount of money that is being spent and what can be saved before deciding to rescind this decision. Roll call: Mr. Steinert – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – no, Mr. Arahill – no, Ms. Hunsinger – no, Mr. McCluskie – no, Ms. Moran - aye. Motion does not carry 3-4.

Jim Raftery, 319 State Street, said it was interesting that they were asked to look at the budget before voting on that motion when the original one was made with looking at a budget. Ms. Thomson replied that they've spent a lot of time doing research and pulling numbers together and had a good idea about where they would be if they went this route, but before putting it on paper they were waiting for final numbers to come back. While the engineers were working on items, the figures were conservative and estimated high. Mr. Raftery asked for physical quotes for every line item and if Council knew how many cruisers would be needed and at what cost. Ms. Thomson replied she didn't have those numbers memorized but could look them up. Mr. Raftery also asked about worker's compensation percentages and how much the police chief would be paid. Ms. Thomson said they have numbers from engineers, insurance brokers and for payroll. Copies of the proposed budget were available for the public.

James Lavin, UPPD officer and union representative, spoke about his experience as an officer and aspects of law enforcement. He relayed differences between UPPD and police departments in Marlborough Township and Bally Borough and gave statistics from 2010 to 2015. He explained the time and effort involved investigating crimes and felony cases. He said he believes what is being proposed by Council is a simplified patrol function. He said at least two officers are needed to conduct interviews and this cannot be done if they are also covering the street. He talked about paperwork generated by service calls. He said officers are pulled out of the area when needing to appear at District Court, transporting prisoners, prepping for trial, mandatory training, picking up equipment, etc. He said 80% of the Police Commission budget goes towards officer's salaries and benefits but is a good investment in law enforcement. He believes creating another department will make them less effective and efficient. He implored Council to reverse their decision tonight.

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, questioned the status of mediation since the last meeting was cancelled. Ms. Hunsinger said Council will be working with the newly appointed Solicitor to reach out to Pennsburg's Solicitor. The first mediation meeting was cancelled due to a quorum and the second meeting was cancelled by the former Solicitor. Mr. Gerhart asked for clarification from the Mayor about the \$50,000 for building renovations. Mayor Sloyer confirmed it included constructing what is needed such as holding cell, evidence room, offices, and foyer. He updated Council on his interpretation of how surcharges may apply to Council action. He asked Council to delay the withdraw until the collective bargaining contract expires on 12/31/17 or rescind the motion to withdraw and remain as an active partner with Pennsburg Borough. He said there are valid points for expenses in the police budget that need to be cut but also a safety concern.

Lon Brinckman, 551 Washington Street, stated the coverage figure of 80% would be more like 33% due to transporting of prisoners and mutual aiding. He estimated \$2.3 million to create a police department. He believes the state police coverage charge of \$156 per person could go into effect next year. He said it's a violation of oath of office to leave the police department and will start a petition to keep UPPD and have the mayor resign.

Chrystal Connolly, 425 Jefferson Street, thanked Council for putting budget numbers together. She asked about expenses to pay in terminating the contract with UPPD. She asked if the new department would be part of the union and what assurances are there that the payroll figures are good estimates. She would like some more information at the next meeting.

Jim Raftery, 319 State Street, asked Council to think about being on state police coverage when emergencies arise.

Diane Godshall, Lake Lane in Pennsburg, asked Mr. Arahill if he would be willing to put a motion back on the table tonight to delay leaving UPPD in March pending mediation. Mr. Arahill said he still believes mediation is a very strong possibility, and he needs more information before giving an answer tonight.

Frances Neilson, Pennsburg Borough resident with an East Greenville business at 233 Main Street, was concerned as a business owner that her vote was not heard because she doesn't own the building. Wants an equipped police department.

Eric Grubb, 138 Main Street, inquired about potential litigation with paying for salaries of police force thorough the end of 2017 and asked Council to wait until 2018.

Keith Gerhart, 143 Cherry Street, asked who on Council would make a motion to take another vote to rescind the decision based on information he stated earlier.

Mr. Steinert made a motion to temporarily rescind the decision to terminate the agreement that created the UPPD pending any outcome of any mediation, seconded by Mr. Pugh. Roll call: Mr. Steinert – aye, Mr. Pugh – aye, Ms. Thomson – no, Mr. Arahill – no, Ms. Hunsinger – no, Mr. McCluskie – no, Ms. Moran - aye. Motion does not carry 3-4.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Being no further business, Ms. Thomson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by:



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Sharon Kachmar, Borough Secretary