

# Arona Borough - February 2018

Regular Meeting

Location: St. Mark's Church

Date: 2/5/2018

Time: 7:55 PM - 9:45 PM

## Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item	Minutes
1: Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 7:55 by President of Council, Kathy Sikora, and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2: Public Comment	<p>Attorney Scott Avolio was in attendance to brief council on services and pricing of services he could provide as borough solicitor. A brief question and answer session was conducted so council could make an informed decision regarding the possibility of replacing the current borough solicitor.</p> <p>John Staney expressed concern that in the event the borough would have to settle a dispute between Arona and the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, what would Mr. Avolio do as far as representation of the borough. Mr. Avolio explained that first and foremost he would have to represent MAWC, but would suggest other council to represent the borough in any dispute,</p> <p>There was a short discussion about the \$100 per hour plus retainer that Mr. Avolio charges versus the \$85 per hour currently charged by Mr. Canfield.</p> <p>Kathy Sikora stated she was open to replacing Mr. Canfield with Mr. Avolio. Mayor Bevan agreed that Mr. Avolio would be a good choice if council decided to make a change. Sikora explained that Mr. Avolio was highly regarded by the borough of Adamsburg.</p> <p>Elizabeth Griffin questioned Mr. Avolio about past and perceived issues with neighboring municipalities' political issues.</p> <p>Kathy Sikora suggested that council retain Mr. Avolio and then revisit his performance after one year.</p> <p>A motion was made by Joe Ruffing to retain Mr. Avolio as solicitor for the period of one year. John Staney seconded the motion. Barclay reamer voted no against the hiring. The motion passed.</p>
3: Reading of Minutes	<p>The minutes were read and were approved as correct.</p> <p>A motion was made by Elizabeth Griffin to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was accepted by Joe Ruffing. The motion carried.</p>
4: Treasurer's Report/Financial	<p><b>BILLS PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT</b></p> <p>MAWC - (Water) - \$126.00 Pitt Rental Center - (9 Invoices for Plowing/Salting Streets) - \$2265.00 Penn Borough Police - (2 Invoices for \$2000.00) Joe Ruffing - (Reimbursement for hardware/keys) - \$32.83</p> <p>John Staney made a motion to accept the bills for payment as presented. Dave Rupert seconded the motion. Motion carried.</p> <p><b>RECEIPTS PRESENTED FOR DEPOSIT</b></p>

	<p>Penn Borough (1 checks) - \$74.70  United States Postal Service - \$137.50  Pavilion rental (Wees) - \$125.00</p>
<p>5: Old Business</p>	<p>CLEAN-UP DAY</p> <p>Joe Ruffing presented additional information about the spring clean-up day in the borough.</p> <p>Junked cars can be towed free of charge...if titled, the towing company will pay up to \$150 per vehicle. There was brief discussion about possible surcharges for certain types of items, ie; tires, air conditioners, de-humidifiers, etc. Joe Ruffing stated that tires carry a \$3 per tire surcharge, \$5 if the tire is still on a rim. He would check about other possible charges and report at a later meeting.</p> <p>There was question about building materials and how they will be handled as most refuse companies will not haul them away. More information will be provided once we get an answer about this type of material.</p> <p>Insurance coverage for the volunteers on the day of the event will also need to be determined.</p> <p>Kathy Sikora suggested that once we determine what surcharges may be charged, we publish them in the flyer that will be sent to all residents in town.</p> <p>Anticipated charges for the day may including, but not limited to recycle fees, garbage bags, refreshments, etc will be determined as we get closer to the day.</p> <p><b>BOROUGH INSURANCE</b></p> <p>The borough received notice from Higbee Insurance that the liability policy for the borough was cancelled. The reason for the cancellation is that Higbee's will be replacing the current policy with one from a different company with the same coverage but with a more competitive rate.</p> <p>The borough Treasurer bond is also in process with Higbee's and should be completed soon.</p> <p><b>SNOW REMOVAL</b></p> <p>Kathy Sikora addressed a snow removal complaint from a resident about prompt snow removal on January 13. She stated that actual snow removal is a real-time function, and the snow removal company cannot always be in the borough at the exact time a snow incident might occur. Jacqueline Bevan stated that businesses in the borough absolutely must have prompt snow removal for liability reasons.</p> <p><b>COUNCIL DEPARTMENT HEADS</b></p> <p>The following council members (and appointees) were appointed heads of borough departments:</p> <p>John Staney - County Liaison  Elizabeth Griffin - Parks  Stanley Morgan - Roads  Joe Levandosky - Lights  Walter Geiger - Public Safety</p>
<p>6: New Business</p>	<p><b>BOROUGH PHONE</b></p>

	<p>Council discussed obtaining a mobile phone for borough business. Cricket Wireless was mentioned as a cost effective provider and that new service including the phone could possibly be purchased for \$120-130 start-up.</p> <p>The borough secretary would be responsible for maintaining and answering the phone.</p> <p>Joe Ruffing made a motion to purchase the phone. Dave Rupert seconded the motion. The motion passed.</p> <p><b>NEW STREET LIGHTS</b></p> <p>Kathy Sikora explained a possible opportunity to have 35 of the borough street lights converted to LED fixtures by West Penn Power. Even though the borough currently has 39 lights, Sikora explained that the West Penn representative said it is highly possible the electric company would approve the additional 4 lights with no cost to the borough. The term of the agreement if council chooses to accept would be 10 years. West Penn would maintain the lights and the borough would pay the bill. It is expected that the conversion to LED fixtures would save the borough approximately 40% in electric costs.</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding having the lights in the ball field changed to LED fixtures as well. Kathy Sikora stated she would obtain an estimate from Newcomer Electric for the light replacement.</p> <p>Elizabeth Griffin made a motion for the borough to accept the proposal from West Penn Power. The motion was seconded by Stanley Morgan.</p> <p><b>PENN POLICE</b></p> <p>Council reviewed attending a meeting with Penn Borough Police about discontinuing policy eservice in Arona Borough.</p> <p>Penn Borough was absorbing higher than anticipated court costs for citations issued with Arona. Kathy Sikora, Dave Rupert, and Joe Ruffing attended the meeting to see if a resolution to keep police protection could be achieved. Arona council made a counter-offer and will await the decision of Penn Police to see if they accept it.</p> <p>It was also suggested that Sikora, Rupert, and Ruffing be paid \$10 each for attending the meeting on behalf of the borough.</p> <p>Penn police officer Eric Colamarino attended the meeting and answered questions about the police service and how it has been going since they began patrols. He also will provide a detailed report of the patrols via e-mail to Arona borough so it can be displayed in the post office.</p> <p>Concerns from local citizens regarding the police parking in their personal driveways while waiting for speeding violators was addressed. Officer Colamarino stated they would no longer use resident's driveways unless given expressed permission.</p>
7: Adjournment	<p>A motion to conclude the meeting was made by Elizabeth Griffin. The motion was seconded by Dave Rupert.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM.</p>