

**Mercersburg Borough Council**  
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA  
JANUARY 14, 2013  
MINUTES

**Attending:** Mayor Jim Zeger, President Elizabeth McClintick, Vice-President John Freeland, Chris Frisby, Donald Stoner, Tom Suddeth, Jeff Main, Borough Manager Tammy Oberholzer, Solicitor Brad Betack, Engineer Lance Kegerreis, and Police Chief John Zechman

**Absent:** Betty Stenger, Assistant Manager, Dawn Scheller

**Press:** Gina Hall, Mercersburg Journal, Jim Hook, Public Opinion

**Guests:** Mary-Anne Gordon, Joel Bradnick, Joe Pryor, Robert McCullough, Sandra McCullough, Lavern Long, Frank Plessinger, Bill Sanders, Rick Robinson, Robert Friese, Dean Heinbaugh, Nancy Robinson, Don Stuff, Gary Smith, Brenda Smith, Thomas Johnston, Bradley Friese, Dale Metcalfe, Jeremy Jones, Al Bendell, Rod Hissong

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council President Elizabeth McClintick.

Mayor Jim Zeger led the Pledge of Allegiance

President McClintick welcomed the many visitors and said that she appreciated them coming to the meeting.

Solicitor Brad Betack spoke to the visitors explaining that this was a public comment section and that if Council chose they could have a conversation back and forth, but that comments should be kept short so that everyone would have an opportunity to speak, and that it was mainly to provide Council with the visitor's comments and concerns.

Council President asked for Public Comments.

Mary-Anne Gordon, Tuscarora Area Chamber of Commerce, opened the public comment period of the meeting by giving an introduction and stating the Chamber has been receiving comments and questions by the local businesses. The number one question being "Why has the Borough initiated a program where truck traffic is stopped and the trucks are being inspected by a Mercersburg Borough Police Department Officer." Mayor Jim Zeger responded by saying the Police Department has received complaints from Citizens regarding the truck traffic in the Borough. The main purpose of the truck inspections is "safety" nothing more nothing less. Commenting that some of the trucks stopped have been in dire shape, one truck had an inspection sticker that had expired in 2008. Many of the visitors questioned the time that the truck inspections were taking ultimately causing delays in the truck schedules. Chief Zechman did comment that he had one (1) officer in the department dedicated to completing the truck inspections. President McClintick commented to the public that when this officer was hired, they (Council) were not looking for a truck inspector; Council's expectations were to hire a part-time police officer. Once that officer was hired, Chief Zechman could then utilize the officer and all other officers to the extent that he needed.

The public comments continued for approximately an hour with President Elizabeth McClintick informing the public that Council will look at scheduling and all of the concerns presented this evening. Council President also asked that if anyone had any additional comments or concerns to forward them to the Borough Office. President McClintick also thanked Mary-Anne Gordon for organizing the businesses concerns. She commented that this was only the beginning of an ongoing conversation.

President McClintick asked Council members their opinion on what committee needs to look at this concern, as Council needs to come up with a plan. It was decided a new committee should be formed going forward. The committee would be a police/safety committee. The President requested volunteers for this committee and will be formed at the February meeting. If she did not have any interest she would appoint members to this committee.

Mayor Zeger and Chief Zechman are the guests at the January Chamber luncheon on January 23, 2013 at noon. The Mayor will announce the formation of this committee at that time.

Minutes of the December 10, 2012 and December 20, 2012 meetings were reviewed.

**MOTION: to approve the meeting minutes from December 10, 2012 and December 20, 2012 meetings with the following addition to the December 20, 2012 meeting, "Jeff Main opposed increasing the employee pay raise as he felt it would be a burden to the taxpayers" was made by John Freeland , second by Chris Frisby,**

Treasurers Report for month end November 30, 2012 was reviewed

**MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month ending December 31, 2012 was made Tom Suddeth, second by Jeff Main, all ayes, motion carried.**

December 2012 and January 2013 invoices were reviewed.

**MOTION: to approve the Bills Payable list for December 2012 and January 2013 was made by John Freeland second by Donald Stoner, all ayes, motion carried.**

During the Mayor's report Mayor Zeger reported it was a new year and there is a lot to be done and felt everyone would do a good job.

Chief Zechman presented the Mercersburg Police Report for December 2012 which included; 91 Complaints and Service Calls, 0 Borough Ordinance Violations, 7 Criminal Investigations, 0 Criminal Arrests, 5 Truck Inspections, 2 Accident Investigations, 79 Citations, and 20 Parking Tickets. Chief reviewed the financial information of money turned over to the Borough. Chief Zechman reported he and the Mayor will give a presentation at the January Chamber Luncheon. The Chief thanked everyone who donated to the care package sent to Officer Hanner for Christmas. Officer Hanner is currently deployed to Kuwait.

There was nothing for the Solicitor report will at this time and will address items as they occur on the agenda.

Under the Engineering report Lance Kegerreis reported he met with Mr. Michael Polak to look at the top streets for repair. They looked at West California, West Seminary, West Seminary Extended, East Seminary, Fayette, Constitution and Linden. Mr. Polak will return to do preliminary work at his costs to help us prepare documents for bid. He will be taking core samples to investigate what is under the wearing course. Once that report is completed, the Engineer can begin to write the specifications for the street project. The Engineer requested to meet with the Street Committee to discuss drainage issues and/or the lack thereof to decide a course of action going forward with the Streets project. Jeff Main volunteered to sit in on the Streets Committee meeting as member Betty Stenger will not be able to attend the meeting. The Streets committee will be on February 6, 2013 at 10:00 am.

Under the Manager's report Tammy Oberholzer reported the Holiday Luncheon was a success, however, she requested a motion to cover the \$36.73 budget overage amount.

**MOTION: to authorize the payment of the budget overage expense of \$36.73 was made by John Freeland and seconded by Chris Frisby, all ayes, motion carried.**

Manager Oberholzer reported to Council that she received a proposal from West Shore Medic 1 that went to the MMP&W, which MMP&W had requested, from them and other Advanced Life Support Units for the possibility of housing a medic unit in the MMP&W fire house. The Manager indicated she also heard that Medic 2 had already been approved to be housed in the firehouse. This brings us back to a previous discussion of who (medic unit) would serve the Borough and that Council would revisit this issue again in January or February. The Manager asked for guidance from Council of how to proceed from here. Solicitor Brad Beteck interjected that if MMP&W contracted with a Medic unit to be housed in their fire house, that contract would have no bearing on which ALS Unit Council chose to service Mercersburg Borough. President McClintick asked Fire Board Members Tom Suddeth and Jeff Main what they knew about this situation of the medic unit. Jeff Main commented that Council decides on the EMS services in the Borough but not who is housed at the Firehouse, and that the MMP&W board could do what they wanted to on this choice. President McClintick only asked that the Fire Board Members were representative of the Borough Council. Mr. Suddeth and Mr. Main indicated that they had. Mr. Main reported that Medic 2 wanted to be in the Firehouse by January 1. However, to date Mr. Main indicated that a contract had not yet been signed. President McClintick commented that she felt the MMP&W board has put Council in a position since Council was on record of revisiting the Medic Unit Choice at January or February meeting. Council expressed their wish for the Manager to move forward on the discussion of the Box Card at February's meeting inviting Chief Carbaugh to the meeting.

The Secretary was not present at the meeting.

The written public works report for November and December was provided in Council Members packets.

Council agreed that the MMP&W Fire Board should be added to the Agenda under the Committee portion, so that the representatives would have the opportunity to report from the monthly meetings.

The Manager reported an interest in serving on the Fire Board had been received in addition to current members wishing reappointment, also a request received to serve on HARB board prior to meeting and one received at meeting was turned over to the Nominating Chair Chris Frisby.

Chris Frisby offered for reappointment: Larry Nair to the Water Authority Board for 5-year term – all ayes  
Jim Malone to the Sewer Authority Board for a 5-year term – all ayes  
James Eyler to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term – all ayes,  
Karen Ramsburg to the Planning Commission for a 4-year term – all ayes  
Julia Meyers to the Zoning Hearing board for a 3-year term – all ayes  
Joshua Meyers to the Appeals Board for a 3-year term – all ayes,  
Jeff Main to the Fire Board for a 1-year term – all ayes  
Tom Suddeth to the Fire Board for a 1-year term-all ayes.

Jeff Main nominated Josh Meyers to the HARB Board for a 5-year term, no other nominations, all ayes,

Vacancies on the General Purpose Authority and the Vacancy Board will be advertised.

Donald Stoner was appointed as Mercersburg Borough's Emergency Management Coordinator.

Personnel Committee scheduled their next meeting for February 11, 2013 at 5:30 pm

Fire Board Representative Jeff Main who is also the president of the MMP&W fire board presented a year-end report to Council.

President McClintick adjourned the meeting at 9:50 pm.

These meeting minutes were transcribed by the use of Borough Manager, Tammy M. Oberholzer's, meeting notes.

Respectfully submitted by Borough Manager, *Tammy M. Oberholzer*

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion Made By: \_\_\_\_\_ Second By: \_\_\_\_\_