

November 20, 2008  
Muncy Borough Council minutes  
7:00pm at the Margaret Waldron Building

Present were: President Vivian Daily, Vice-President Galen Betzer, Linda Stein, Karen Richards, Lloyd Wurster and Dana Bertin. Also present were Mayor Tony Rizzo, Borough Manager Ed Coup, Chief Richard Sutton, and solicitor Wilf Knecht. Special invited guests were Rick Lowe, Borough Treasurer and Mary Lynn Rager, new Borough Secretary/Office Manager.

President Daily opened the meeting at 7:00pm with an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Rizzo.

### **New Business**

President Daily introduced the two Muncy citizens that applied for the council vacancy created by Mr. Fornwalts resignation. They are Alicia Myers and Daniel Kelly. Mrs. Daily gave each council person a list of questions and answers that both Ms. Myers and Mr. Kelly submitted. She then asked council to review them as they started into the regular agenda.

### **Personnel Committee**

Ms. Richards gave a presentation on recommended pay raises for 2009. She said that most non-uniformed employees were recommended for a .50 per hour wage increase. She then led a discussion on pension benefits. She indicated there may be future discussions about having employees contribute to their pension plan, with a maximum amount of 10%.

Ms. Stein then made a motion to approve the salaries and wages for non-uniform employees for 2009 as presented by the Finance Committee. Mrs. Daily seconded the motion with all voting in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

Mr. Betzer than made a motion to approve a 3.5% wage increase in 2009 for police hourly employees as stipulated in their contract. Ms. Stein seconded the motion with all voting in favor. Motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Stein discussed the high cost of pensions and health insurance. She said that council needs to be aware of the excessive cost of pension benefits. Ms. Richards felt that Council has the obligation to look at our plan and our pension broker to see if it's the best option for the Borough to go.

Police officers are vested after 12 years of service and part-time officers are not eligible to participate in the pension plan.

Council then had a discussion on what type of bonus to give borough employees. President Daily asked the personnel committee to review the various suggestions that were made, and to report back to Council at their December meeting.

The next item of business was the appointment of a council representative. Ms. Richards made a motion to appoint Alicia Myers as the council representative, whose term would expire in December 2009. Mr. Wurster seconded the motion with all voting in favor. Motion approved 6-0.

Daniel Kelly, the other applicant was invited by President Daily to serve on a Borough Safety Committee.

Alicia Myers was then sworn into office by Mayor Rizzo at approximately 7:45pm.

The next item of business was the Library Re-roofing award. Mr. Coup explained that the low bidder did not specify a substantially similar roof material to what is currently on the library, as stipulated in the newspaper advertisement. He advised council that he had extensive discussions with our solicitor(s) and they agreed that it was legally permissible to award the roofing bid to the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest bidder, T-Ross Brothers from Montandon, PA. This contractor specified the correct roof material. Solicitor Knecht confirmed this to Council. Ms. Richards made a motion to award the roofing bid, subject to legal review, to T-Ross Brothers at their bid price of \$40,789.00. Mr. Betzer seconded the motion and all voted in favor. Motion approved 7-0.

Mr. Coup then asked for approval to go out to bid on the West Water Street Pump Station project. He advised council that Entech Engineers had developed the bid specifications, and that they had been reviewed and approved by staff and the Sewer Committee. Mr. Betzer made a motion to authorize going out to bid, and Mr. Bertin seconded the motion with all voting in favor. Motion approved 7-0.

Ms. Stein and Mr. Betzer then led a discussion on a hazardous tree located on the bocce courts on N. Market Street. They said that two bids were received that met the conditions we had. Dincher and Dincher submitted a bid in excess of \$2,000.00 and Steve Gardner submitted a bid of \$1225.00 for the removal of the tree and the grinding of the stump. President Daily made a motion to approve awarding the bid to Steve Gardner at his bid of \$1225.00. Ms. Myers seconded the motion and all approved. Motion approved 7-0.

President Daily told council that the Borough was recently approved for a \$22,500.00 DCNR grant to develop a Master Recreation Plan.

Mr. Coup informed Council that the property at 102 N. Market, which was a flood buy-out property, had recently been turned over to the borough for demolition. Mr. Coup indicated he would advise our insurance carrier of the property, and he also would contact the Fire Company because they indicated they would like to use it for training prior to demolition.

President Daily asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to the consortium that recently helped plant trees. She said that she would get Mr. Coup the appropriate contact information.

Ms. Stein, chairperson of the Council Finance Committee than gave a detailed presentation on the draft 2009 budgets for General Fund, Sewer, Water, and Liquid Fuels. She thanked Chief Sutton, Borough Manager Ed Coup, Water Operator Gary Saam and others for their participation in the budgeting process. She also indicated that staff and the Finance Committee would be closely monitoring revenues in 2009 for sewer and water and that there would be no tax increase, or no sewer and water increase for 2009. Ms. Stein then made a motion that tentative approval be given for the General Fund, Sewer, Water and Liquid Fuels budget and that it be advertised in the newspaper. Ms. Richards seconded this motion, and all approved. Motion approved 7-0.

### **Other business**

Ms. Richards led a discussion on the composition of the Muncy Municipal Authority Board. She indicated that there was no resolution ever drafted to expand the size of the authority board from 5 to 7. Council instructed the solicitor to draft a resolution expanding the authority board from 5 to 7 which would include 2 council representatives.

President Daily suggested that Council discuss the reappointment of Harold Davis to the Municipal Authority, as his current term expires in January 1, 2009.

President Daily then called an Executive Session at 9:00pm to discuss personnel issues, and stated that no other discussion or business would be conducted after the Executive Session.

On motion of Mr. Bertin and seconded by Mr. Wurster, the meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Coup  
Assistant Secretary