

**Mercersburg Borough Council**  
**Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA**  
**November 11, 2019**  
**MINUTES**

**Attending:** President Donald (Dusty) Stoner Jr., Vice-President Jeff Main, Dr. Michael Pedersen, Sean Grove, Paul Sipes, Amy Burkot, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Borough Secretary Stacey Golden and Solicitor Steve Coccoresse

**Absent:** Mayor Roger Defibaugh, Tom Heefner

**Guests/Press:** Rachel Nichols, Lisa Minton, Raymond Minton, Preston Spahr, Jason Summers (Troop143), Kurt Schaich (Troop 28), Numerous Boy Scout Members

President Donald Stoner Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM asking the Boy Scout troops to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was observed for the servicemen and women who have sacrificed to protect our nation. President Stoner Jr. introduced Troop 143 and 28.

President Stoner opened the floor for public comments. Preston Spahr gave an update on the Mercersburg Vibrancy/Steering Committee reporting that two meetings were held to talk about funding with M&T & Fulton County Medical both being receptive but not committed. Spahr stated that images were submitted for Lion's Park grant with a June timeframe. Spahr noted that Liz George said "Thank you to everyone who is involved in creating the trail".

**MOTION: To approve the October 14, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

Borough Manager Derek Stoy stated that the purchase of the new truck was pushed back a month. Vice-President Jeff Main inquired about taking bids on the truck. Manager Stoy said when the new truck is delivered and in service there would be an advertisement made.

**MOTION: To approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable for the month ending October 31, 2019 was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.**

Mayor Roger Defibaugh was not present. Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported that parking meters would be free from November 25<sup>th</sup> until January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Paul Sipes asked that the police reports be interpreted to be better understood. President Stoner Jr. asked that the request be documented in the minutes.

President Donald Stoner Jr. moved into the Borough Manager's Report.

Manager Stoy gave an update on the trail saying it is completed and a final walk through is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. DCNR has to approve so that the grant can be closed up to request the final ten percent. Alliance for the Bay donated seedlings, over forty trees were planted. Some white pines were purchased and noted that twenty volunteers assisted in the planting along the trail. Pheasants Forever planted

wildflower seeds. Stoy said the 2020 budget could be reviewed under Finance Committee reports. A finance meeting will be held on November 21, 2019 at 1 PM. Stoy reported that he met with Orrstown Bank and discussed interest rates. Interest rates decreased from 2% to 1.5%. Stoy commented that he inquired about investing funds that don't move into six months or so to take advantage of higher interest rates. There will be a personnel meeting November 18, 2019 to discuss handbook concerns. Manager Stoy explained his need for a laptop due to the current one being small and not user friendly saying that he was in touch with Ryan Hutzel from Ryan's Computer Consulting Services to order one. Manager Derek Stoy said Vice-President Jeff Main worked it out for the Volunteer Luncheon to be held on January 15, 2020 at the MMPW Activity Center and said \$250 from each entity is being requested. An executive session will be needed to discuss several other items.

**MOTION: To approve the purchase a laptop through Ryan's Computer Consulting Services in the amount of \$1050 was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

Council moved onto Committee Reports.

Jeff Main reported that the Fire Board is getting ready for 2020.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy gave an update concerning the Personnel Committee's recommendation saying that on October 21<sup>st</sup> a meeting was held. In 2015 a decision was made to approve that the borough cover up to 1.5% of health care coverage of each employee. Personnel recommended that 2.3% be covered by all three entities to cover health insurance increase. Stoy also reported on the health insurance surplus that personnel recommended applying \$2000 to four non uniformed employees and \$1500 to one non uniform employee due to April hiring.

**MOTION: To increase the health care coverage from 1.5% to 2.3% for 2020 pending the other entities approval was made by Paul Sipes, second by Amy Burkot. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To apply \$2000 payment to each of the four non uniformed employees and \$1500 to one non uniform employee as a result of the April hire out date from the Health Insurance Surplus Account. These payments will be an out of pocket reduction of each employee for a monthly basis pending approval by the other two entities was made by Paul Sipes, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.**

Borough Manager Derek Stoy said things were being tightened up in the employee handbook guidelines.

Council moved onto the Streets Committee Reports.

Jeff Main explained that the borough does not have a boot ordinance. The boot ordinance would include language to say that once an individual has \$250 in fines and tickets the boot would be in place.

**MOTION: To allow the solicitor to draft the language for parking ordinance 1-35 regarding the boot ordinance was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.**

President Dusty Stoner Jr. and Borough Manager Derek Stoy both addressed the council on the Finance Committee meeting saying that two different budgets were presented showing a 0.6 mill increase for the fire department and one without the 0.6 mills tax increase but to still provide the fire department with the equivalent of the 0.6 mill increase.

**MOTION: To adopt the 10/28/19 budget A reflecting not hiring a third police officer with no millage increase**

was made by Jeff Main, second by Amy Burkot. All ayes, motion carried.

Council moved into New Business

**MOTION:** To meet the obligation for the 2019 & 2020 MMO Pension Plan for the uniformed employees in the amounts of \$1,409 and \$1,667 respectfully was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To meet the obligation for the 2019 & 2020 MMO Pension Plan for the non-uniformed employees in the amounts of \$55,175 and \$54,248 respectfully was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To approve the staff to have their Volunteer Luncheon at \$250 per entity on January 15, 2019 to be held at the MMPW Activity Center was made by Jeff Main, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To appoint Borough Manager, Derek Stoy for the Representative and Borough Secretary, Stacey Golden as the Alternative for the Franklin County Area Tax Board was made by Jeff Main, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** For Council to follow the recommendation of the Personnel Committee with regard to the extension of Chief Zechmann’s leave request was made by Paul Sipes, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

Manager Derek Stoy mentioned that for the next month’s meeting the Franklin County Area Tax Board Budget will be under New Business and asked council to peruse and noted that normally council disapproves.

**MOTION:** To enter into Executive Session regarding personnel matters at 7:55 PM with action to be taken was made by Paul Sipes, second by Jeff Main. All ayes, motion carried.

Council resumed regular session at 8:45 PM.

**MOTION:** To not hire William E. Wolfe III as a crossing cross was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To approve the solicitor to construct a letter to the resident on 33 Oregon Street was made by Michael Pedersen, second by Sean Grove. All ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To agree to pay Judy Bonciu \$625 per motion of the August 2019 meeting for sidewalk restoration was made by Paul Sipes, second by Michael Pedersen. All ayes, motion carried.

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 8:48 PM was made by Jeff Main, second by Paul Sipes. All ayes, motion carried.

*These meeting minutes were transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Stacey M. Golden with the use of her meeting notes and audio recording.*

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_ Second by: \_\_\_\_\_