

FORTY FORT, PA

December 21, 2009

Special Meeting of Council

A special meeting of Forty Fort Borough Council was held on Monday, December 21, 2009 at the Forty Fort Borough Building, 1271 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, with President Joseph Chacke presiding.

Council Members present were as follows: Robert Craig, Charles Kamus, Betty Mascelli, Frank Michaels, Dave Williams and President Joseph Chacke. Deanna Brown, James McCabe and Richard Yingst were absent.

Also present were Mayor Boyd Hoats Jr., Junior Councilperson Ted Ritsick, Borton-Lawson Engineering Representative Dave Yefko and Borough Secretary/Coordinator Denise Syms. There were twenty-one (21) visitors present.

President Chacke called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

A moment of silence was followed by the *Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag* led by Mayor Hoats.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

President Chacke asked if there was anyone that would like to address Council on agenda items at this time.

Motion by Mr. Craig to approve the minutes of the Work Session held on November 16, 2009. Second by Mr. Williams.

Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Mr. Craig to adopt the 2010 budget on the second reading. Second by Mrs. Mascelli.

On the question, Mr. Craig asked about the crossing guard salaries 419.140 having an increase of \$500 from last year from \$19,500 to \$20,000. Why is our reimbursement dropping from the previous year by \$1,500? President Chacke stated that WVW pay 60% of the wages and there was probably a mistake at one point.

Mr. Craig ask about 341.00 earned interest, in 2009 we had budgeted \$2,600 in earned interest. Mr. Chacke said that we didn't receive that. Mrs. Syms stated that as of November 19th, we had \$443 in earned interest. Mr. Williams stated that based on that we should lower our budget estimate. Mrs. Syms stated that it is based on the amount of money in the account at any one time. President Chacke stated that any changes at this time may need to readvertise the budget and have another reading. Mr. Craig stated that \$500 is not a major change and it is not going to break us. Mr. Craig also stated that he spoke to the Mayor and 331.01 Parking Tickets, we had budgeted \$5,000 in 2009. President Chacke stated that the year before that we budgeted \$9,000. Mrs. Syms stated that as of November 19th it was \$1,830. Mr. Craig confirmed with the Mayor that he said that was going to change. Mrs. Syms stated that in 2008 the actual was \$2,720. In 2005, it was \$7,664; in 2006, it was \$6,217; in 2007, it was \$5,517. President Chacke stated that in

2004 it was \$11,210 down to \$1,800. Mr. Craig asked who was working then that isn't working now. President Chacke did not know why there was a change.

Mr. Michaels asked 310.20 earned income taxes down by \$8,000. President Chacke stated that it was based on this year. Mrs. Syms stated that as of November 19th, \$402, 562.

Mr. Michaels asked 322.80 street opening permits (pave cuts), we anticipated \$5,500 increase. President Chacke again stated based on actuals. Mrs. Syms stated that we can't go by this year because we had an unusual influx of money. 2008 actual is \$18,043. We had a high influx of one pave cut that had to do with the paving by Commerce Park.

Mr. Michaels asked about 361.61 duplicate tax bill fees being based on the actual for 2009. President Chacke asked Mrs. Syms what the number was. Mrs. Syms stated that \$3,165.

Mr. Michaels asked about 402.321 telephone increase of \$1,000. Mrs. Syms stated the actual is \$5,176.

Mr. Michaels asked if the total difference in vehicle fuel for \$12,460, as you said at the last meeting, is based on actual figures for this year. President Chacke stated "yes." Mr. Michaels asked if that will be reflected in a surplus at the end of this year. President Chacke stated that we don't know what we are going to look like at the end of the year, but we've under budgeted in other areas.

Mr. Michaels asked about 430.220 operating supplies under roads and streets have a decrease of \$5,000. President Chacke stated that we bought a lot of equipment this year.

Mr. Michaels asked about 430.260 equipment. President Chacke said the same thing applies or we can use liquid fuels dollars to purchase other things. Mr. Michaels asked what things did we purchase that we won't purchase. President Chacke stated the riding mower and repaired the bed in one of the trucks. He asked Mrs. Mascelli if she could think of anything off the top of her head.

Mr. Michaels asked about 452.140 lifeguard wages under recreation, what is the decrease based on. President Chacke explained that we are going to do things a little different this year.

Mr. Michaels asked about 483.164 police pension MMO. President Chacke stated that the number is provided by the actuary.

Mr. Michaels asked about 486.354 workers compensation under insurance premiums is down by \$23,500. President Chacke stated that some of that is based on removing our part-time fire workers, and one claim dropped off.

Mr. Michaels asked that when the budget was developed were any meetings held with the department heads. President Chacke stated that there were requests for budget proposals from the department heads. Mr. Michaels asked if there was a reason for no actual meetings being held. Mr. Williams stated that he had one with code enforcement. President Chacke stated that requests went out in September with proposals requested. It was up to the head of the department, employee wise and the chair of the committee, to provide the information. Mr. Michaels stated that at the last meeting the planning committee didn't meet. President Chacke stated that there was no active finance chair. Mr. Michaels asked about the other committee members and that it came down to what two people wanted to do.

Mr. Craig wants to know how much it dropped down because of the dropping off of part-time firefighters. Mrs. Syms stated that it has to do with a lot of different things, payroll, and number of claims in the past three years and the fourth year gets dropped off so it deals with claims in 2008, 2007, and 2006 with 2005 claims dropping off.

Mr. Michaels asked if there is any ballpark figure as to what our ending surplus to be. Mrs. Syms stated that she is still doing transfers.

Motion passed with one “no” vote.

Motion by Mr. Williams to accept the Northway Ventures. Second by Mr. Craig. On the question, Mr. Craig stated that he doesn’t like it.

Motion passed without dissent.

The following Tax Anticipation Bids were received:

Fidelity Bank	4.0%
Citizens Bank	2.68%
First Keystone National Bank	3.24%

PNC Bank and M&T Bank were also contacted but did not submit a bid.

Motion by Mr. Craig to award the TAN bid to Citizens Bank in the amount of \$250,000. Second by Mr. Michaels.

Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Mr. Williams to pay the bills as presented and to ratify the payment of the bills by the President of Council and Borough Secretary. Second by Mr. Craig.

On the question, Mr. Craig questioned the \$5,000 for Carl Krasavage to repair the tree lawn and sidewalk for the water main line and replace the leading 2 inch copper water main pipe. Mrs. Syms explained that it was in front of the Wyoming Avenue Park and it was an emergency repair. Mr. Craig asked why are we paying for it. Mrs. Syms stated that because it is our lines. Mr. Craig asked where it is going to what the pool. President Chacke stated the park and the pool. Mr. Craig asked if it was in the park. President Chacke stated in the tree lawn on Wyoming Avenue. President Chacke stated that the recommendation from the water company would have cost us \$10,000 to \$15,000. Mrs. Syms stated that their recommendation was to repair the whole line all the way to the pool. Mr. Craig asked at what point do those pipes become the water companies and not ours. Mrs. Syms stated the cartway, from the curb in is our responsibility. Mr. Craig asked that they didn’t need to cut the curb just the sidewalk. Mrs. Syms stated that the break was on our property.

Mr. Kamus asked why the Borton-Lawson bill for Abrahams Creek was \$1,766. Mr. Yefko stated that it was in connection with getting the trees removed. Mr. Craig asked if it cost \$1800 to find out we had to cut some trees down. Mr. Yefko stated that you didn’t have to cut them down and then he explained that it was for the correspondences and meetings with Luzerne County to have Luzerne County remove the trees along the creek which was ongoing for the past two years.

Mr. Craig asked about the First Priority Life under medical insurance and if it is what we pay for health coverage for everyone other than police. President Chacke stated that it is for the street department and fire.

Motion passed with Mr. Kamus voting “no”.

President Chacke stated that he received a letter from Ms. Shirley Zelner to overturn the decision of the Shade Tree Commission regarding the removal of her tree.

Mrs. Mascelli stated that she had it done. President Chacke stated that she received a quote for \$415 for tree and stump removal. Mr. Craig asked if she had the tree removed.

Mrs. Mascelli stated that she just had it removed. President Chacke said that he will review it and Council can readdress it at a later date.

President Chacke stated that the Borough received a \$10,000 grant award from DCED for surveillance equipment in the park. President Chacke thanked Mrs. Syms for helping him with the grant.

Mr. Yefko, Borton-Lawson Engineering, discussed his conversation with Penn DOT regarding the need for a traffic study. Penn DOT told him that they would not review the traffic study but you would be required to do it and keep it on file. The benefit to Penn DOT is kind of protects them from a little bit of liability and it also provides a level of liability protection to the borough based on the fact that before you would take an action like that you get a traffic study performed. However, they could not specifically point him in the direction as to guidelines as to what the study would detail because there are many levels of a traffic study. Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. Craig to adjourn. Second by Ms. Mascelli.

Motion passed without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Syms
Borough Secretary/Coordinator