

**MINUTES**  
**BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT**  
February 21, 2000 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled February Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the February 21, 2000 meeting of Council convened.

**PRESENT:** President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Rovansek, Mr. Krupa, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Kory, Mayor Lary Koval, Secretary/Treasurer: Judith Czyrnik, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Engineer: Dave Duray, West Hills Police: Detective Sgt. Musulin, Zoning Officer: Fred Pullen

**ABSENT:** Street Commissioner: Jan Bosley,(sick) Fire Chief: Michael Butler, West Hills Police: Chief Andy Havas,

**VISITORS:** Eric Muncert, Assessor

President Pile asked for approval of the January 17, 2000 minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers All in favor, motion carried.

At this time, President Pile called on Eric Muncert, who stated he was just observing.

President Pile continued with the meeting.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

West Hills Regional Police written report records the revenues for Southmont Borough fines for January at \$275.66. The West Hills Regional Police are currently in the process of attending 2000 Mandatory Inservice Training Classes. All officers will have completed the course by March 2000. Det. Sgt. Musulin gave a presentation to the 4th grade students at Our Mother of Sorrows. No further report.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**

Mr. Pullen's written report records 2 permits were issued this month, in the amount of \$28,700.00. There is nothing new to report on the Snyder case. The February 14, 2000 in court date in Cambria County Court was continued and no new date has been set. Two hearings are scheduled in the Haidar case. A hearing is set in Ebensburg in the Court of Common pleas on March 14, 2000 and one at Magistrate DeCourt's office on April 4, 2000. A letter has been sent to Mr. Chiodo in reference to installing sidewalks at his latest construction at 300-302 Cheney Oak Drive. Letters will be included in any new construction permit when or where it is geographically feasible to place sidewalks.



### FIRE COMPANY REPORT

In the absence of Chief Butler, Council reviewed the written report recording 19 responses for the month of January. On January 20th SVFC responded to a vehicle fire at Menoher and Gardner Street. The fire resulted in a total loss of approximately \$3,000.00. The Fire Company has ordered new SCBA units. They units were ordered in November and to date still have not been received. Chief Butler's report records that four pagers did not activate during seven calls in December and January. The Fire Company's annual financial statement was received for the years of 1997, 1998, for our file. President Pile sent a letter to Chief Butler requesting a report to Council on the condition of these pagers, when the calls were received and whether the pagers were turned on at the time. Also, a letter has been sent to the Fire Department informing them that any time an outside contractor is in the Municipal Buildings, Fire Department included, they must sign in and out with the Secretary's office. They must also show an insurance certificate at that time. This was necessary due to the accident that occurred to an independent contractor who was working alone in the Fire House.

President Pile reported that several members of Borough Council and Chet Borosky attended a meeting with members of surrounding Ambulance and Fire Departments, Westmont Borough Council members, Fire Personnel, and West Hills Ambulance personnel. The meeting was to go over a variety of services, fund raisers, method of billing and other items. They will talk with area Legislators for information on State participation for volunteer fire departments. Each department will review their own services and possibly meet again. No decisions were made at this meeting.

### ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Duray met with the Street Committee and reviewed the Borough streets for the proposed 2000 Street Paving project. Council reviewed the cost estimates and scope of proposed work to be done. After review, Mr. Danyluk made a motion to have Engineers prepare and advertise specs with an alternate bid for opening at the March 7th meeting of Council. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Danyluk requested that the Engineers look at the possibility and costs for doing the concrete streets in Southmont for the year 2001. Crack sealing has helped preserve the streets and should be continued. The Street Committee is further recommending that alley signs be installed on Borough alleys. Mr. Duray reported that the contractor is working on the Wonder Street soccer/ballfield project, weather permitting. The Engineers have begun updating the sewer mapping, as approved at last months meeting of Council. Corrective Action plan reports will be finished and mailed to the Department of Environmental Protection later this month. Mr. Duray reported that he has prepared and submitted a drawing for Council on the televising of the sanitary sewer line on Luzerne Street. The line is clear except at the area near the Luzerne Street manhole. Mr. Duray is recommending that a new line be put in with more fall (drop) than the old line has. After discussion and review, a motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to have Engineer and Solicitor prepare cost estimates, specs, and deeds to correct the sewer problem at Luzerne Street. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried. Abutting property owners will be notified.



Solicitor Lovette reviewed with Council the status of the Chapin Arch property area that is to be conveyed to the Southwestern Conservancy. Southmont Borough will need to purchase the right of way section from PennDot for \$100.00, plus transfer, new deeds and recording costs with the County. After discussion, Mr. Krupa made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to enter into the agreement to purchase the right of way from PennDot for \$100.00, to transfer, to prepare deeds, and pay recording costs to convey the parcel to the Southern Alleghenies Southwestern Conservancy. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried.

Council discussed Wren Street, the former Borough playground property and the possibility of changing the parcel from residential to commercial, prior to any sale of the property. Mr. Rovansek made a motion to have Engineers review the property, find utilities and place them on the drawings and to prepare a legal description of the parcel. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Rodgers made a motion to request the Zoning Hearing Board re-zone the Wren Street property from residential to commercial. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried.

## COMMITTEES

### STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

In Mr. Bosley's absence his written report was reviewed. Employees plowed and salted streets as needed. Continued picking up Christmas trees and branches from wind storms. Continued to work on new garage area. Performed necessary maintenance on vehicles and equipment. A set of blades for Westmont Borough's brush chipper was ordered, as per our agreement.

### STREET COMMITTEE

Mr. Danyluk discussed with Council the Ray Alley steps (Langhorne and Harding Street). There are seven pieces of railing missing on the steps. Solicitor Lovette stated that the steps are on the right of way. The Borough never accepted the alley and never accepted the maintenance. Mr. Kory made a motion to fix and paint the railing, as we have in the past, and to do no other maintenance or upkeep on the steps. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. A letter will be sent to the abutting property owners informing them of the Borough's decision.

### ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr. Strittmatter set a Committee meeting for March 7, 2000. Council will go into Executive Session after the Council meeting. Council will discuss Personnel matters involving leaves of absence.



**POLICE COMMISSION**

Mayor Koval was appointed Chairman of the West Hills Regional Police Commission and Tom Strittmatter was appointed Treasurer. Mayor Koval reported that the WHRPC will look into a drug testing policy for the police officers.

**RECYCLING COMMITTEE**

No report.

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kory reported that we received renewal rates for the year 2000-2001 from PIRMA for the liability in the amount of \$9,426.25. The quote includes the new storage shed on Diamond and the traffic lights at Menoher and Gardner St. Updated policy will be renewed April 1, 2000.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rodgers reviewed the corrected December 1999 Treasurer's Report. The errors have been corrected and submitted as the final corrected Treasurers Report 2-1-00. The Liquid Fuels audit for 1998 was audited and found to be in order. The Police Pension fund as of 12/31/99 has a balance of \$224,879.23. The Police Pension audit for the years 1996/97 has been submitted to all Council members, for review. Tom Zurilla will be at the Committee meeting on March 7, 2000 to review his interpretation of the audit. At the exit conference we were told that the Auditor General's department would turn this audit over to the legal department for ruling on their findings. According to the Auditor General's representative Tim Clark we will be given formal notice and have 90 days to respond to their findings. We are still awaiting a return call to be sure of our time line. A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers that if necessary, we appeal the Auditor General's audit of the Police Pension Fund as outlined in the copy received. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried.

**SHADE TREE**

Mr. Krupa asked Council to review an amendment to the original Shade Tree Ordinance No. 69, dated September 12, 1927, and add a section on tree limb heights. Mr. Krupa asked that Council members review the amendment and add or delete their thoughts for a final draft. Mr. Krupa reported the Arbor Day celebration will be May 6, 2000 and he is asking Council to suggest a possible location to hold the celebration. The Borough will be planting three trees in memory of Mark Buffenmyer, Lois Smith and Robert Weaver, all who passed away this past year.

**RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE**

Mayor Koval reviewed a letter from Moxham Lutheran Church to use the Diamond Playground on April 29, 2000 for an Easter Egg hunt. A motion by Mr. Danyluk was made to allow the Easter Egg hunt, with the knowledge that the Diamond Playground is open to the public. Motion seconded by Mr. Rodgers.

**RECREATION/PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE Cont'd**

Mayor Koval reported on a meeting with Lichtenfels Nursery on the soccer/ballfield repair and restoration work done previously. Drainage and roadway work was included on our invoice for the Keystone Recreation Grant received from the State for soccer/ballfield. The field also is used by the Southmont Volunteer Fire Department for the Jubilee. For many years the heavy trucks and equipment have taken a toll on the field. Water problems also caused problems on the field. The Borough dug up and constructed a french type drain system to remove the excess water from the entrance area of the field. The Fire Company had agreeded to pay for the necessary backfill and re-seeding for the roadway into the soccer/ballfield. These items were all on one invoice. At the meeting we also discussed the plants put in last year. None of the plants survived and need to be replaced. Mr. Lichtenfel will replace the plants. The Borough's share of the invoice was revised, and is on the bill sheet for approval.

**BUILDING /GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Kory's committee will compile a breakdown of the Borough buildings. No other report.

**C.O.G. COMMITTEE**

Mr. Rovansek reported that the contractor for the COG salt bid is asking for assistance due to the increased fuel costs. Nothing could be done in the current contract

**CHAPIN ARCH**

Mr. Kory had no further report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Koval reported that there will be a training session at the 9-1-1 Center on March 14, 2000 on Flashflood Emergencies/Warnings

**SOLICITOR**

Solicitor Lovette had nothing further to report. He is preparing the Holding Pond Ordinance/Resolution.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The Secretary's Report records that letters were sent to Mr. & Mrs. Pysnhic approving them to call Roto-Rooter if they experience any problems in the Luzerne Street sanitary sewer line, until the Borough can correct the problems. The borough is responsible only for the main sewer line.

At this time the rates for the Engineers were reviewed. A motion to approve the 2000 rates as submitted was made by Mr. Rodgers. Seconded by Mr. Danyluk. All in favor, motion carried.





**COMMITTEE MEETING Notes: March 7, 2000 @ 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** K. Pile, R. Rodgers, E. Danyluk, T. Strittmatter, W. Kory, Mayor Koval

**Absent:** R. Rovansek, W. Krupa

1. **Police Pension Audit:** Tom Zurilla, Borough Consultant and Committee Members discussed the police pension audit of January 31, 2000. Members discussed what Southmont needed to do in compliance with the audit. The Committee advised Council to send the State a check in the amount of \$21,056 for the state aid received in 1979-1980. These two years the Borough could not find at the time of the audit. Mr. Zurilla will draft a letter explaining the Borough's position on the final audit for the years 1996 and 1997. With the payment, the Borough will consider this audit completed. If the State disagrees, the State should consider this letter our notice to appeal.

2. **Personnel Issues:** a. Jim Carbaugh's letter requesting 4 weeks medical leave, beginning March 1, 2000 was discussed. Committee also discussed Mr. Carbaugh's Doctors letter dated March 1, 2000. The Committee agreed to accept Mr. Carbaugh's request for the medical leave, from March 1, 2000 to March 31, 2000.

Mr. Carbaugh will have to submit a letter in writing to request any further time off.

b. Various other personnel issued were discussed.

3. **Flower Fund:** It was agreed to send flowers in Councils' name when necessary and the expense will be through the Administration/General Fund line item, #400.22. Will need approval at the regular Monthly meeting Dan is checking on this issue

4. **Shade Tree/Tree Limb Height Ordinance:** Committee briefly reviewed the proposed Ordinance submitted by Bill Krupa. Council members will make recommendations. Committee said that Council should particularly look at the tree limb height above sidewalks and above streets. Council members are to make recommendations to Bill Krupa before next meeting.

Kevin Pile, 3-7-00

