

MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF SOUTHMONT  
January 20, 2003 7:00 p.m.

The scheduled January Council meeting was called to order by President Pile at 7:00 p.m. After the pledge to the flag, the January 20, 2003 meeting of Council convened.

**PRESENT:** President Pile, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Graham, Mr. Kory, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Krupa, Mayor: Gerry Sloat, Solicitor: Daniel R. Lovette, Secretary/Treasurer: Judith Czyrnik, Engineer: Dave Duray, Zoning Officer: Dyke Orms, Fire Chief: Chet Borosky, West Hills Police: Detective George Musulin

**ABSENT:** Street Commissioner, Jan Bosley

**VISITORS:** David Sturtz 556 Harshberger St. Fred Partch 218 Wonder Street  
Tom Sturtz 556 Harshberger St. Paul Schmidt 842 Vickroy Ave.

President Pile asked for approval of the December 9, 2002 minutes and Committee Meeting Notes of January 7 and January 14, 2003. A motion was made by Mr. Krupa to accept the Minutes and Committee Meeting Notes, as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Strittmatter. All in favor, motion carried.

President Pile called on visitors David and Tom Sturtz who were attending to gather information for an Eagle Scout Badge. Mr. Fred Partch was in to make a complaint about the alley between State and Wonder Street, (Artichoke Alley). He had called twice to request that the snow be removed. The alley opens at both ends and it is an unaccepted alley. Mr. Partch wanted the alley free of snow piled and leaves raked into the entrance to the alley on the Dell Street side. Mr. Danyluk stated that the snow plow will move the snow to the left and to the right of the entrance of the alley. He feels the alley has become an extension of the property at 411 State Street since the garage was built. He wants access in and out of the alley. There is a pile of dirt on the Dell Street side and it has changed the alley grade. He wants it to be corrected as it was. This will be looked at in the Spring. The borough had previously removed the curb on the Leon Street side of the alley for access. Solicitor Lovette stated that this is a civil issue, not a Borough issue.

At this time, President Pile made a change in the AGENDA, moving NEW BUSINESS ahead to discuss a Greater Johnstown Water Authority issue. Mr. George Ambroe notified Southmont that he is resigning his position as representative to the Water Authority. After discussion, Mr. Rodgers made a motion to appoint Mr. Paul Schmidt of 842 Vickroy Ave. to represent Southmont Borough to the Greater Johnstown Water Authority. Seconded by Mr. Graham. Roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Graham, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile. All in favor, motion carried. Mayor Sloat administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Schmidt. The Greater Johnstown Water Authority will be notified. The first meeting Mr. Schmidt will attend will be January 23, 2003.

At this time, Mr. Rodgers moved that we accept the resignation of Mr. George Ambroe, who resigned effective December 31, 2002. Seconded

by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. Mr. Schmidt will fill the unexpired term of Mr. Ambroe, which expires December 31, 2004.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

In Chief Havas's absence, Det. George Musulin reviewed the December report. Revenues for the month of November were \$673.25 and December revenues were \$1,111.50. Det. Musulin reported that Officer Lose will attend a Disaster Planning Seminar on 2-06-03 in Somerset. The seminar is sponsored by DCED. No further report.

**ZONING OFFICERS REPORT**

Mr. Orms reported that there was no activity this month. Nothing further to report.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT**

Chief Borosky reviewed the written report recording 20 responses for the month. Two calls were received between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. the Fire Department responded to an alarm at 300 Diamond Blvd. Fireplace embers ignited a throw rug and Christmas tree near the fireplace. The Fire Department responded to a small rock slide on Menoher on December 14. Trees continue to fall onto Menoher Highway. The Fire Department is aware that the Borough has written a letter to PennDot in reference to these fallen trees. Mr. Pile stated that a meeting is scheduled on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with Mr. Paul Burns of Penndot to discuss the trees along Menoher and the Agility program. President Pile asked that if any member of Council can attend, please do so. The Fire Department also assisted at the two major fires in the area; one at Miller Pools and the other at Rick's Auto in Geistown Borough. Chief Borosky submitted the yearly report to Council. A Financial Statement for 2002 was also submitted. At the Committee meeting, it was decided that the Borough would pay for other maintenance charges to the Fire Truck when it was out for the accident repairs. These charges will be added to the Bill Sheet. There will be a meeting at Westmont Fire Co. on January 29, 2003 with reference to the regionalization of the Fire Departments.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Dave Duray of P.C. Rizzo & Associates has reviewed with Council the American Sigma letter he prepared in reference to the flow meter repairs. Mr. Duray feels sure the meter was defective since the beginning and feels American Sigma needs to make the repairs at no cost to the Borough. Quaker Sales is sponsoring a pavement seminar on March 4, 2003 at the Holiday Inn in Indiana. Mr. Duray will attend. A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk and seconded by Mr. Rodgers that Mr. Bosley and Mr. Danyluk attend this seminar. All in favor, motion carried.

The Borough received information from the Department of Environmental Protection with reference to the NPDES Storm Water Phase

II. A copy was given to Mr. Duray. A committee meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. to review this Phase II guideline. Mr. Duray will attend this meeting. The Engineers are working on the 2003 Corrective Action Plan and request for sewer taps (EDU'S. The Engineers are also working on the annual waste load report for Johnstown Redevelopment Authority. This report is due February 28, 2003.

#### COMMITTEES

##### STREET COMMISSIONERS REPORT

In Mr. Bosley's absence Council reviewed his written report. Employees cleaned the Borough building, recycled weekly or when weather permitted, and monitored designated sanitary sewer lines. Employees picked up leaves between snow storms. A valve was replaced on the calcium chloride pump. Council noted that the roads have been well taken care of during the past several snow storms. Solicitor Lovette reminded Council that the dumped leaves and dirt in Artichoke Alley are not the Borough's responsibility. These residents need to be notified as to the Borough's position on this issue.

##### STREET COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Danyluk will follow up on three calls received about problems at the Boderocca's Apts. on Thoburn Street, Mr. Huss on Bluff: snow plow damage, and Mrs. Neff who stated that the plow damaged the curb on the Olive Street side of her property.

##### ADMINISTRATION/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

At the last meeting with AFSCME representative Tim Miller and the Union employees, Southmont presented their rewritten contract to the AFSCME representative. Mr. Miller left the meeting and noted that the next meeting would be scheduled with a mediator. No schedule as to when that will be. A motion was made by Mr. Strittmatter to submit the mediation form to the State, in compliance with Act 195 of 1970. Seconded by Mr. Rodgers. All in favor, motion carried. All time sheet information has been forwarded to Mr. Miller.

##### POLICE COMMITTEE

There will be a meeting Tuesday January 21, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. at the Westmont Borough building. Mayor Sloat reported that Upper Yoder police were in attendance at the December meeting and questions and answers on regionalization followed. Solicitor Lovette suggested Council call an Executive Meeting to further discuss any the Police department issues. President Pile noted Council would call the Executive Session before the meeting end.

##### RECYCLING COMMITTEE

No report this month.

##### INSURANCE COMMITTEE

No report

Mr. Kory discussed the upcoming Liability Insurance renewal. The letter has been sent to PIRMA notifying them that Naugle Insurance is submitting a quote for the Liability. The Principal Life Insurance Co. notified the Borough of an increase in Life Insurance coverage in the total amount of \$ .87 per month for all members.

#### BUDGET COMMITTEE

Mr. Rodgers noted that the line items transfers were made to balance the General Fund for 2002.

#### SHADE TREE REPORT

Mr. Krupa reported that several residents called him in reference to donating to the Shade Tree Commission in remembrance of a neighbor who recently passed away. Mr. Krupa stated that the memorial donations would be part of the Arbor Day celebration for 2003.

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Pile reported that the Recreation Committee has had several interviews for the Recreation Executive Director position and they have narrowed it down to two individuals, Mr. David Roman Jr. and Mr. Steve Vickroy. The Commission will meet on January 22, 2003. The Ridge holding tank has gone to the Contractor. Work will be done by the end of February. The treatment plant will be torn down in March.

#### BUILDING/GROUNDS REPORT

Mr. Kory stated that everything appears to be in good order at this time. After the winter he will look at the Buildings. Council will look into having an independent contractor or the possibility of purchasing a snow blower to do the sidewalks during winter months. Prices will be available for January 28, 2003 Committee meeting.

#### COG REPORT

Mr. Graham reviewed with Council that COG is looking into a flow sewer meter for the participating members to share as they do with the sewer camera. COG is awaiting insurance papers before the camera will be housed in Southmont.

The list of representatives from Southmont has been submitted to COG. The next meeting is February 4, 2003.

#### GRANDVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Kory reported that he spoke to Mr. Ott of the Cemetery Association. They have received the letter from the Southwestern Conservancy officially taking over maintenance and ownership of the Chapin Arch. He was thankful to Southmont Borough and their part in finalizing this issue. Mr. Ott had received the letter stating that Southmont would be paving Millcreek Rd. in the spring along with Westmont Borough. A copy of the PennDot letter had also been sent to inform them of the hazardous tree and limb conditions along Menoher Highway.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sloat had nothing to report. Council discussed crosswalks, and painting bold bars at Stop signs and "SLOW" signs painted throughout the Borough. It seems to help with the vehicular traffic.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Lovette is waiting for Mr. Bosley to give him some background information on the problems on Wren Street so he can prepare a letter to Mr. Alex Goodman's attorney to explain an overflow problem from Wren Street onto his property. Solicitor Lovette had some discussion with Attorney Green Jr. on the deed for the Rocco Trusecllo property abutting the Ray Alley steps. More information will be available at the February meeting. Solicitor Lovette had recorded the deed for Chapin Arch to the Southwestern Conservancy. It is officially final.

Solicitor Lovette has prepared proposed Ordinance No. 438 to accept Cheney Oak Drive in its entirety. A motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to advertise proposed Ordinance No 438 for final adoption at the February meeting. Seconded by Mr. Graham. All in favor, motion carried. Solicitor Lovette reported on a phone call from Mr. Rodgers in reference to a cost of living increase for retired police officers from Southmont's former Police Department. Council discussed the issue. The other issue was survivors benefit increase from 50% to 100%. Solicitor Lovette stated that a surviving widow can only receive 50%. Council will discuss this further at a Committee meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mrs. Czyrnik's written report records Southmont received two quotes from CPA/Accounting firms to install the GASB, Act 34 plan in Southmont. The two other computers were ordered for the Clerk's office and for Mr. Bosley. Tom Lewis began updating the computer for 2003 and will begin to install the Municipal program into the new computer. Roy Livingston returned to work on January 2, 2003. Latest word on the grant application from Representative Wojnaroski's office is probably after the Governor's inauguration. The Borough Elected officials Life Insurance Program began January 1, 2003. Payments will be deducted from their monthly allowance. Mr. Orms has helped very much in showing me how to install and transfer files from the Mac. to the IBM. It seems to be working very well.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers to accept the Treasurer's Report for December and the General Fund transfer in the amount of \$330,739.67. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. All in favor, motion carried.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**

A motion was made by Mr. Rodgers noting that the borough received the Tax Collector's Real Estate report for December in the amount of \$8472.65 and the January final \$664.77. Seconded by Mr. Kory. All in favor, motion carried. All other 2002 taxes returned to the County January 15, 2003.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

After questions and discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Danyluk to approve payment of the bills with the addition of \$2,667.21 for additional Fire Company repairs, in the amount of \$66,476.25. Seconded by Mr. Krupa. Roll call: Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Graham, Mr. Kory, Mr. Danyluk, Mr. Strittmatter, Mr. Krupa and Mr. Pile. All in favor, opposed none. Motion carried. 7-0

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Pile asked for review of the items on the "Tickler List". Items were reviewed and removed or re-listed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A Committee meeting was set for January 28, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss NPEDS Phase II with Mr. Duray. The GSAB quotes will also be reviewed.

On February 11, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. the Committee will meet to discuss the Capital Improvement Fund, and the cost of living increases for the retired police officers and survivors benefits. Mr. Zurilla will be invited.

Two appointments will need to be made for the Boards & Commission. There is a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board/BOCA Code Board and the Planning Commission.

At this time President Pile called for an Executive Meeting - 8:20 p.m. to discuss Personnel and Police issues. Council reconvened at 8:45 p.m. There being no further items to discuss Council adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Judith A. Czyrnik*

Judith A. Czyrnik,  
Borough Secretary

