

Jermyn Borough

Council Meeting

2/7/19

The Jermyn Borough Council held a council meeting on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Council Chambers of the Jermyn Borough Building, 440 Jefferson Ave, Jermyn PA.

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Kulick with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On roll call, the following members were present: Frank Kulick, Kristen Dougherty, Jennifer Schreiner, Kevin Napoli, Carl Tomaine, Cynthia Stephens, Joanne Wilson. Attorney Aquilino, Mayor Fuga, Ray Rood and Bob Chase (7:03pm) were also present. KBA was absent.

Minutes:

A motion was made by C. Stephens to accept the minutes of 1/17/19 as presented. Seconded by K. Napoli. All in favor, motion carried.

Bills Payable: A motion was made by K. Dougherty to pay the bills as presented. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All in favor, motion carried.

Correspondence:

F. Kulick read a letter from Fire Chief Ray Rood addressed to President Kulick and Council, regretfully stepping down as Fire Chief, once Council finds a replacement. Chief Rood thanked this Council and previous Councils for their support, and stated he will hopefully return when he is able. F. Kulick expressed his sadness to read the letter. Mayor Fuga thanked Chief Rood, and the room gave Chief Rood a standing ovation for his service. F. Kulick advised Public Safety Chairperson K. Napoli it is up to him to find a replacement. K. Napoli announced that he is opening the position for resumes and letters of intent until the next council meeting, 2/21/19, at which time, a committee formed by himself, President Kulick, Mayor Fuga, Councilwoman Schreiner, and Borough Manager Markey will interview qualified candidates and recommend a position. F. Kulick asked how we would advertise for this. K. Napoli stated we can put something on Facebook and website. F. Kulick asked for qualifications. K. Napoli stated they have to be a resident of Jermyn. R. Rood stated in the past they would submit their resume, Council would interview, and then make a recommendation for appointment. D. Markey asked if we needed to advertise in the newspaper, or may we send letters to the fire companies? W. Aquilino stated we can send letters. J. Wilson asked if the Fire Chief needs to be a resident? K. Napoli stated yes. F. Kulick stated we would want to appoint someone who lives in town. K. Napoli stated even though they must live in Jermyn, they don't necessarily need to belong to a Jermyn fire company.

F. Kulick read a letter from Lackawanna County Housing Authority, asking D. Markey to call them to discuss why garbage isn't being picked up even though they make a payment in lieu of taxes. F. Kulick stated that they make a payment, but not the garbage fee payment. D. Markey stated that they make a payment in lieu of taxes, which is supposed to assist in police, fire, etc, not garbage. D. Markey stated it's only fair to charge the \$125 fee per unit if we are to collect their garbage. F. Kulick advised D. Markey to advise the Housing Authority that our garbage is going out for bid again this year, however if they want to be included, they must

pay the per unit fee. F. Kulick asked who picks up their garbage now? D. Markey stated County Waste, but it's not under the Jermyn Borough contract.

Public Comment: Kaitlyn English from Lackawanna County presented information on the Lackawanna County Job Fair, Winter Golf Clinic, Easter Egg Hunt, Trolley Baseball Excursion, Penn State Extension is holding Community Clovers 4H, Creative Arts 4H, 4H Sewing club. B. Chase asked if she knew about Lackawanna State Park holding Winterfest on Saturday, February 9, 2019. She was unaware. He explained the events being held.

Donna Stackel, on behalf of the Jermyn Events Committee, asking Jermyn Borough Council permission to apply for the Lackawanna County Arts grant for the Concert in the Park. She stated she would like to see the entrance much wider, it's not too good. J. Wilson explained the snow between the street and sidewalk needs to be widened. The bell outside is not operable, and she stood outside for ten minutes tonight until the police let her in. D. Markey explained the front door should be unlocked, but wasn't unlocked today. K. Napoli told T. Fuga to look into a wireless intercom system. A motion was made by F. Kulick to allow the Jermyn Events Committee to apply for the county grant for the concert in the park in the amount of \$500. Seconded by J. Wilson. All members in favor, motion carried.

R. Rood stated he had a sewer issue the other day, and when Roto Rooter came out, the problem was right before the lateral to the main line. He stated that sometime down the road, the main line will need to be addressed. T. Fuga explained there was no oversight when the sewer line was put in, and the pipes were piecemealed together, and the lines have bellies in them.

C. Tomaine would like to commend the DPW on the job done in the last two snowstorms, because the nature of the storm gave them no time to waste, and they really hustled. He said he took a ride around town and he was impressed. He would like to acknowledge the DPW. The council and audience applauded. T. Fuga stated they worked hard and worked together, and the nature of the storm starting with snow and turning to ice, they had to act quickly, and did the best we can with what we have.

L. DeMarco asked if anything can be done about people throwing their snow into the road? He stated it's more dangerous than not plowing the roads. T. Fuga stated we'll look at getting on those people more.

Crosswalks: D. Markey was asked to look into crosswalks at the United Methodist Church and by Battenberg's Funeral Home. He is currently completing a mid-block crosswalk survey, however he was advised by PENNDOT that if a crosswalk is put there, Jermyn Borough needs to advise we would be willing to make 20 feet before and after the crosswalk a no parking zone. He asked who he could get in touch with at the church to discuss. C. Stephens stated she will give contact info to D. Markey.

At the Maple St., Washington Ave intersection, this is not a mid-block crosswalk, and we can put a crosswalk there, however, both curbs need to be ADA compliant, so D. Markey is working on applying for a highway occupancy permit to cut a pedestrian curb there. C. Tomaine asked if it's possible to do a diagonal crosswalk into Battenberg's driveway? T. Fuga stated probably not, because PENNDOT doesn't want the crosswalks to flow into a driveway. K. Dougherty stated the placement of the police car wasn't the best at the funeral last night. D. Markey stated the police weren't there, they just parked a cruiser. J. Wilson asked about signs to be put in the road, can we find out the price and maybe get a donation? T. Fuga stated we need to put in the crosswalk first, then we can put pre-emptive warning lights out. He stated we need the crosswalk first, and then we'll put up the pre-emptive pedestrian warning lights.

F. Kulick mentioned he's pleased to see the No Turn on Red sign back at the intersection of Washington & Rushbrook. He stated many people pull out to try to turn on red. D. Markey stated Northeast Signal has to come back, because there are still some timing issues with the light, and possible sensor issues. They're going to come out and show us how everything works so we can detect issues in the future. D. Markey stated Northeast Signal bills the borough and the insurance company pays the borough. He is trying to get the payment from the insurance company prior to paying Northeast Signal, since the invoice is around \$31K.

Daycare Meeting: B. Chase reported he and K. Napoli met with the owner of the daycare. She expressed an interest in working with the borough in making sure the daycare is the safest it could be. She purchased the cones, and is looking for someone to install. There is painting on the ingress & egress spots, but that cannot be done now due to the weather. She wanted to widen the ingress & egress so the bus can get in & out, and contact Lakeland S.D. so she could change the bus stop from the corner to right in front of the daycare. If she obtains permission, she will ask the borough if the space can be made a loading & unloading zone only. It would be no parking during school hours, or Monday through Friday from 7am to 5pm.

Revenue Anticipation Note: F. Kulick reported we received 3 separate proposals, and FNB bank was the best out of the three that are here. Honesdale National bank proposed 3.30% fixed for 1 year, or 2.75% fixed for 1 year with the opening of an account with at least a \$50K balance. Dime Bank offered 3.04% fixed for 1 year, and FNB offered 2.60% fixed for 1 year, based on our existing relationship. F. Kulick asked if this is something we need to act on immediately? D. Markey stated we don't want to get ourselves into a situation where money is due and we don't have the funds to pay. Kathy DeLeo from FNB was in attendance, and stated they can setup for approval, so that when we're ready to execute, everything will be set. A motion was made by K. Dougherty to move forward with FNB for the Revenue Anticipation Note for \$280,000, seconded by J. Wilson. All members in favor, motion carried.

Polling Place: D. Markey stated he will prepare letters and send to the fire companies. K. Napoli explained that with the new gym floor, the borough is looking into the possibility of moving the elections to one of the fire companies. D. Markey added there is a \$75 per election stipend, and each fire company may be able to hold a food sale to supplement the income as well.

Rushbrook Creek Grant: F. Kulick asked if we had any further word on the renewal of the county's \$385 DCED grant. D. Markey stated that he hadn't heard back from Ralph Pappas yet. D. Markey explained that the grant had been extended by one year increments every year for the past five years, and there might not be room for any further extensions. K. Dougherty asked did Senator Blake advise us that this money wasn't going anywhere? F. Kulick said not exactly, but he stated Jermyn borough wouldn't be responsible for extra monies; that he would find funding for us. D. Markey stated that when Senator Blake was present, Lackawanna County was here also, and they put in an extension request back then.

Girl Scout Corners: K. Napoli reported he met with the leader of the Girl Scouts, and as soon as they have a plan for exactly what they want to do, they will confer with the Shade Tree Commission as to how they can help.

Parking Lot Paving: D. Markey stated that KBA advised they'll be ready to go out to bid in February. Funds have to be drawn and requested by June 30, 2019. KBA had specs include items that might not be needed, as we have a good sub base out there, and can possibly use some of our millings. Council can also vote to put out an alternate bid to get an idea of how much can be paved for \$50K.

William Walker: F. Kulick advised that the finance committee met to find funds for the additional \$3000 requested. We can transfer \$1500 from the accounting budget, as we have awarded a smaller bid, and also

\$1500 from Rapid Cast, as we budgeted for \$2000, and the bill came in for \$498 for 2019. K. Dougherty asked how Rapid Cast bills? Is it by the message? D. Markey reported it's by the household. They advise us to budget \$2000, but we only had 249 households signed up when we received the 2019 bill. F. Kulick made a motion to transfer \$1500 from Rapid Cast and \$1500 from Accounting to William Walker Contribution budget, and advise William Walker that we will make a monetary contribution of \$4000 total in 2019. Seconded by J. Wilson. K. Napoli abstained due to possible financial conflict of interest. All other members in favor, motion carried.

Chief Arthur Contract: Tabled.

DPW Garage: D. Markey reported that after the government shutdown was over, the USDA gave us paperwork to sign. There was also paperwork given to the solicitor, and a feasibility survey to give to KBA, who is nearing completion. D. Markey stated the USDA advised that the construction funds are done through a local bank, who is paid by USDA, who secures our loan. R. Rood asked if we know what the monthly cost to the borough is going to be? D. Markey stated we're not exactly sure, due to not deciding on the length of the loan yet, but the interest costs are already in the underwriting. It could be \$550-\$1000/month. J. Wilson asked the building is going to be \$200K? D. Markey advised that is what KBA estimate is, and USDA states it's better to overestimate than underestimate. The USDA had applicants underestimate before, and it's very hard to deal with.

MS4: D. Markey reported there is a lot going on with MS4 right now, and it's in our best interest to make sure we're all on the same page. Everyone has information coming in from all angles, and it's a good idea for us to bring all the information together and delegate tasks and responsibilities. K. Dougherty stated she researched more information, and our actual application date is November, 2019, which is not far off. We need to look at all aspects of the situation, and apply for a waiver, if possible. If we don't do it right, we're in big trouble, because we'll face big fines. T. Fuga stated we need to do MCM's now. K. Dougherty stated if we do anything now, it won't count, because nothing will count prior to our application being completed and approved. D. Markey stated he received self-audit checklists for MCMs 1 through 6, and need to figure out who is completing what. F. Kulick stated to have MS4 committee meet and discuss. Lou DeMarco asked if this is what everyone is complaining about down in Luzerne County right now? D. Markey advised yes. B. Chase stated that people have to pay a fee for their square footage of impervious surface. In reality, the phosphates come from the farms, etc. T. Fuga stated in Luzerne County, they're pulling their resources, but up here we're on our own right now. T. Fuga advised all our storm drains and outfalls go into the Lackawanna River. He also stated that PENNDOT does not street sweep anymore either, so we're on our own there as well. J. Wilson asked if Lackawanna County is doing anything to help municipalities? T. Fuga stated no, we're on our own. Hopefully they'll help in the future, but right now they're not. K. Dougherty stated we should have a bunch of municipalities petition the county for help. T. Fuga stated that COGs, or Councils of Government, are being formed in Luzerne County to help take on some of the issues, but it seems municipalities in this area don't want to work together. K. Dougherty explained that's how her brother got his job in Columbia County overseeing all the MS4 requirements. F. Kulick asked if K. Dougherty's brother would be willing to come talk to us and give us some assistance. She stated she will get him here to a meeting. J. Wilson asked if LCAB is doing anything. T. Fuga stated many municipalities want to fight it, and not work to get it done.

Rainwater Issues: There are some issues in Archbald borough with water causing issues in Jermyn Borough. There is a work session in Archbald on February 13, 2019 at 7pm. D. Markey stated he cannot attend. Some other members showed interest in attending.

Rushbrook Creek Log Jam Issue: D. Markey was made aware by the Planning Commission of a log jam issue in Carbondale Township in the Rushbrook Creek. He spoke with several officials in Carbondale Township. He asked them if there is something that can be done? They stated they will look into it and get back to me, and they still haven't not responded. D. Markey asked the solicitor to draft a letter to the Carbondale Township Supervisors regarding the issue.

New Business: Mayor Fuga is calling a Holiday Lights Committee meeting on Sunday, February 24th at 7pm to re-organize and also to discuss the purchasing of new lights and a plan of what we're doing with lights. J. Schreiner asked if we are looking to sell the old lights? T. Fuga stated he's not sure, but it's something we can discuss. J. Schreiner stated she spoke with the owner of the holiday house in Peckville, and he stated he would purchase them, sight unseen. T. Fuga stated we will discuss it.

D. Markey stated the solicitor would like to go to a conference in Scranton regarding municipal law and liability issues on April 24th. The cost is \$350. F. Kulick made a motion to allow the solicitor to attend the seminar on April 24th. Seconded by C. Tomaine. All members in favor, motion carried.

Basil Kleha reported that there was a big difference on the main street when the parking ban was put into effect, and everything looked great. T. Fuga stated we will try to put that into effect again in the future for bigger storms, especially now that we know we can do it. B. Kleha stated that the Mayor does a great job with putting on and taking off the alternate parking. He also stated that there have been two separate Planning Commission meetings since the last council meeting. He commended the Zoning Officer in handling everything. There will be some new construction, down on Old Mill Road, and also on the corner of Gibson and Jefferson.

J. Wilson asked if Senator Blake is coming on Monday, February 11th? D. Markey stated this coming Monday morning, Senator Blake's staff will be here to help residents with the Property Tax and Rent Rebate Program.

Mr. Kleha stated tonight will be Lou DeMarco's last meeting in Jermyn because he is moving to Peckville. F. Kulick asked isn't Mr. DeMarco on one of the boards? Mr. DeMarco stated yes, on the zoning hearing board. F. Kulick asked Mr. Kleha if the planning commission is full? Mr. Kleha stated yes, there are 5 total.

Mr. DeMarco stated Mr. Rosemergy is sick and could use some visitors.

Adjournment: With no other business to come before the meeting, a motion was made by K. Napoli to adjourn, seconded by C. Tomaine. All in favor, motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel Markey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Daniel Markey

Borough Manager