

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING**

A regular meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at 7:00 pm at the New Berlin Borough Community Center located at 318 Vine Street, New Berlin, PA. Present were President Julianne Finkbiner, Vice-President R. Kurt Zimmerman, President Pro-Tem Jeffrey Swanger, Councilman Jason Frederick, Councilwoman Lynda Frederick, and Councilwoman Betty Kratzer. Solicitor Edward Greco; Lester Hummel, Street Department Supervisor and Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer was also present. Mayor Thomas Stickley, Chief Charles Pensyl and Councilwoman Barbara Stamm were absent from the meeting. Rick Dandes, The Daily Item, Bill Seigel, Director of SEDA-COG's Community Development program and John Showers, New Berlin resident were present as visitors.

The meeting was brought to order by President Julianne Finkbiner with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 8, 2012 - Discussion was brought regarding the January 8, 2012 meeting minutes. Jeffrey Swanger made a motion to approve the minutes from January 8, 2012. Lynda Frederick made a 2nd to the motion. President Finkbiner stated that "relay" under the school property discussion on page two should be "conveyed". Ms. Witmer stated that she would make the change. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

VISITOR BUSINESS – Rick Dandes, The Daily Item - Mr. Rick Dandes was present from the Daily Item for the purpose of having media coverage at the council meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –Police Committee & Finance Committee - R. Kurt Zimmerman reported on the police committee and finance committee. Mr. Zimmerman thanked Mr. Hummel and Ms. Witmer as well as the Municipal Authority Secretary for handling their budget items and issues wisely.

Police Committee - The police committee recommended creating a sergeants position in the chain of command for the police department. The police committee also recommends giving any persons holding the sergeants position a \$1.00 per dollar an hour raise.

Finance Committee - Mr. Zimmerman reported that while the finance committee supported adding a sergeant position to the chain of command, they did not recommend a raise for the 2012 budget year. Mr. Zimmerman explained that the finance committee's feeling was that the budget was already completed and any proposals for raises should have been brought before budget negotiations began.

Mr. Zimmerman asked for council's thoughts on the matter. Council stated that they would liked to have the Chief present at the meeting to answer questions before a final decision is made. Discussed was a need for an explanation as

to why the sergeant's position should be created when the Chief's job includes overseeing and training new officers. Also discussed was whether a new person would be hired to fill the sergeant's position or if someone from within the department will move into that position and how that will fit with the future of the department.

Training - Mr. Zimmerman reported that the police committee discussed training of the police officers and stated that approval will be required before the borough pays for any training.

POLICE REPORT – A written police report was available for council. Council noticed that the Chief worked 33 hours for the month of January instead of the budgeted 30 hours. Solicitor Greco suggested that the Chief work 27 hours next month as to not interfere with the budget.

Finance Committee - Eminent Domain of School Property - The finance committee met on Monday, February 6, 2012 and after careful deliberation are recommending to council beginning the process of acquiring the 5.45 acre property currently containing the New Berlin Elementary School and surrounding property. The committee recommends proceeding with eminent domain under Borough Code Section 2501 and Pa. Eminent Domain Code Section 302.

Motion - R. Kurt Zimmerman made a motion to begin the process of acquiring the property containing the New Berlin Elementary School by eminent domain. Lynda Frederick made a 2nd to the motion. Solicitor Greco stated that, if approved, council would be giving him permission to do an ordinance and begin a process for eminent domain. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

STREET DEPARTMENT –2012 Chevy Silverado – Mr. Hummel reported that the street department has been using the 2012 Chevy Silverado truck and they are very pleased with its operation and handling.

1984 Dodge - Mr. Hummel stated that he would like to put the 1984 Dodge with the snow plow up for bid as well as the old army trailer. Solicitor Greco stated that it would be beneficial to wait until the police car is ready to be placed for bid also. Council thought the bid may be able to be discussed next month.

Drywall Bids - Mr. Hummel presented council with several bids for the borough office drywall. Mr. Hummel recommends Mr. Moyer since quoted the best price. Motion carried.

Carpet - Mr. Hummel inquired if council also wanted to put new carpet in the office. Council stated that they did wish to get new carpet installed.

MAYORS REPORT – Mayor Stickley was absent from the meeting and no report was given.

SOLICITORS REPORT – Solicitor Greco reported that he did not have anything to report.

NEW BERLIN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY - Minutes – R. Kurt Zimmerman inquired if there were any questions regarding the municipal authority's minutes. Ms. Finkbiner inquired if the bills invoiced regarding the new plant were all paid. Mr. Zimmerman stated that the general contractor did submit his final bill but it was incomplete. The municipal authority has asked that the contractor resubmit the bill when it is entirely complete.

Waterline Break - Mr. Zimmerman reported that there was a minor waterline break yesterday on Plum Street. It break was repaired under pressure so there was no need for a boil water advisory.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balances – General Fund - Rebecca Witmer reported the balance in the General Fund as \$112,339.53.

Community Center Fee Modification Request - Ms. Witmer reported that the Yoga center would like to use the community center 4 days at the end of February for 4 hours each day but would like council to give them a discount on the fee of \$85.00 per day. Discussed was council's history of fee waivers to borough entities, committees and, on occasion, non-profit organizations. It was determined that the Yoga Center is not a non-profit organization or an entity directly related to the borough and it would be best not to start waiving fees for businesses.

Statement of Financial Interest Forms - Ms. Witmer referred to the Statement of Financial Interest Forms given to each member of council and stated that the borough needs a completed copy on file for each council member.

State Road Permits - Ms. Witmer stated that it was time for her to submit the required paperwork to Penn Dot for the closing of the State Routes for New Berlin Day, the Fireman's Parade and the Memorial Day Parade.

Motion - R. Kurt Zimmerman made a motion to submit the required paperwork to close the roads for the necessary days. Jeffrey Swanger made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

PEMA Money - Ms. Witmer reported that the \$3,365.25 in grant PEMA money for Tropical Storm Lee was received. The recreation association's portion of the money will be sent to them after tonight's meeting. The check is listed on the current council agenda.

PLGIT Account Breakdown - Ms. Witmer gave referred to a written report given to council showing a detailed accounting of the funds in the general PLGIT Account. Ms. Witmer explained how council uses the "unallocated" portion of the fund and when and why account moneys are transferred from one account to another.

Bills to be Paid – Motion – R. Kurt Zimmerman made a motion to pay the bills. Betty Kratzer made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE PAID FROM GENERAL FUNDS ACCOUNT

PA Department of Revenue	164.38
US Treasury	1,302.06
PP&L	853.27
Selinsgrove Borough	1,600.00
Selinsgrove Ford	30.93
Tri County Tag	40.00
A+ Office Outlet	43.95
DJ's Foreign and Domestic	191.90
Immix Wireless	89.92
Middle Creek Signs, Inc.	85.16
PIRMA	7,086.30
Union County Commissioners	6.00
Charles Pensyl	409.94
Curt Keister	161.76
Daniel Jacoby	35.54
Dennis Kreamer	111.06
Eugene Keister	56.03
Francis Petrovich	63.08
Jay Walter	42.00
Leif Hassenplug	876.90
Lester Hummel	995.43
Rebecca Witmer	1,287.12
Rodney Styers	148.63
A+ Office Outlet	4.80
Cardmember Service	201.86
Coles Hardware	39.14
Law Office of Edward C. Greco	280.00
H.A. Thomson Company	37.00
Hometown Disposal, lp	64.50
Postmaster	156.00
R.L. Hummel Automotive Supply Inc.	18.99
Rebecca Witmer	30.60
WAL-MART	82.28
Coles Hardware	11.39
New Berlin Recreation Association	1,450.00
TOTAL	\$18,057.92

OLD BUSINESS – Auditors - Lynda Frederick made a motion to appoint Ronald Blatchley and Mike Palermo to help audit the 2011 books. R. Kurt Zimmerman made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS - No new business discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION NUMBER 1- Executive session number one was held at 8:05 pm to discuss legal strategies. Executive session number one ended at 8:20 pm.

Motion Block Grant - R. Kurt Zimmerman made a motion to apply for the 2012 Community Development Block Grant. Jeffrey Swanger made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

DEP Meeting - Mr. Showers stated that a representative from DEP approached him regarding the grant given for improvements along Pens Creek. However, before moving forward with improvements as authorized in the grant, they would like to have one meeting with people in New Berlin for the purposes of telling New Berliners what they feel should be done with the grant funding. They are, however, still willing to move forward with what was originally approved if their ideas are not accepted. After some discussion, it was decided that Mr. Showers would set up the meeting with Ms. Witmer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION NUMBER TWO - Executive session number two was held at 8:35 pm to discuss another legal strategy. Executive session number two ended at 9:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion – Lynda Frederick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeffrey Swanger made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca A. Witmer,
Secretary/Treasurer

MAYOR