

**NEW BERLIN BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

A council meeting of the New Berlin Borough Council was held on June 10, 2020, at 7:00 pm at the New Berlin Borough Community Center located at 318 Vine Street, New Berlin, PA. Present were President Julianne Finkbiner, Councilwoman Barbara Stamm, Councilwoman Meghan Shambach, Councilwoman Betty Kratzer, Councilwoman Lynda Frederick, Vice-President Lisa Decker, and Councilman Barry Kuhns. Wendy Cole, Solicitor; Bonnie Hamilton, Mayor; Curt Keister, Street Department Supervisor; and Rebecca Witmer, Secretary/Treasurer were also present. L. Eric Hassenplug, Chief of Police was absent from the meeting. Visitors present were borough residents Tonya Greiner, Nancy Showers, David Farmer, Sally Farmer, and Cheryl Hoover, some of whom belong to the New Berlin Citizen's Group.

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – March 11, 2020 - Discussion was brought regarding the March 11, 2020 minutes. Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to approve the March 11, 2020 minutes. Councilman Barry Kuhns made a 2nd to the motion. Councilwoman Lynda Frederick stated her name was listed as "Lisa Frederick" in the attendance. A typo was also noted on page 1. Vote was taken to approve the minutes with the corrections. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried. Councilwoman Barbara Stamm stated she had a few other typos. Councilwoman Finkbiner asked that the typos be emailed to the Secretary/ Treasurer since the minutes were approved with corrections.

VISITOR BUSINESS – Nancy Showers – Concerns - Nancy Showers spoke of concerns stating the following (text was copied and pasted from an email of the text provided by the speaker – emphasis added in the text was added by the speaker, not by the borough) :

"And a good evening to BARB, BARRY, BETTY, BONNIE, JULI, LISA, LYNDA, MEGHAN, REBECCA.

I've realized that referring to this group of folks as Borough Council masks the fact that each of you chose the role you're in tonight and have individual---as well as collective---responsibilities as they pertain to the residents of New Berlin. On the same token, I

personally will no longer refer to the caring collection of folks I meet with as THE CITIZENS' GROUP, but as a concerned group of individual residents of this borough. To me, this is a significant distinction in how we approach our needs, concerns, and responsibilities.

So, BARB, BARRY, BETTY, BONNIE, JULI, LISA, LYNDA, MEGHAN, REBECCA...here we are again, all gathered together after a year of expressing needs to reclaim the quaint & irresistible reputation and sense of community that this borough once enjoyed. Little to no progress toward resolution in a year's time. And it's sad when friends from other communities ask what's happening to New Berlin. A different reputation is growing.

Unconscionable motorcycle, car, & truck noises accompanied with excessive speeds + the burning of plastics in burn barrels + the ignored & unsightly junk on properties (a freezer currently in use on a porch; junk cars in a side-yard) + dangerous dogs that have been reported repeatedly + the egging of homes."

Councilwoman Shambach inquired what was done to homes as she could not make out the word Ms. Showers was saying. Mrs. Showers stated the word was "egging". Mrs. Showers continued:

*"Let me slow down to say that the warmer seasons have begun and the problems have accelerated. Already a book club, recently held outside, needed to pause discussion several times to accommodate the revving noises of vehicles on Vine & Market Streets. At the same book gathering, the stench of burning plastic infiltrated the scene. On a Tuesday, of course. And the egging of homes: notice the plural. Within the same week before Easter (April 12th), two homes were egged, one on Market Street & one on Vine Street. (Then there was our home egging last fall which necessitated a call to the state police.) *For safety reasons as a result of the eggings and for recording proof of the excessive noise and speed of vehicles, several residents have now installed their own video cameras and other means of detection.**

The ordinances on the books are meant to be enforced. {I know, here we go again. And it'll be again & again until action is taken.} The sad thing about this apparent indifference to the state of our town is that these issues are health hazards + safety hazards for children & pedestrians of all ages...and they're affecting property values: who wants to sell a home that seems situated on the berm of a NASCAR speedway?

Another consequence of inaction is that there's no time to focus on the common good...and to extend simple hospitality and goodwill to each other. Both among council members themselves and then between each of you seated before us...and us. Just thinking how nice it'd be if a council member would be welcoming enough to greet new residents to town, introduce him/herself and offer openness to discuss looming questions and/or concerns. Has that ever been discussed? Has that ever happened? *Let me point out that I was recently made aware of the one salient council member who indeed cares enough about this town to introduce herself to others as she also identifies her role...and generously extends the essence of community. Thank you, Barb."*

President Finkbiner stated the 5 minute time limit for visitor comment has expired. It was noted by the president that an extra minute of time was given to the speaker due to the speaker being asked to clarify a statement made.

David Farmer stated he would continue reading Mrs. Shower's statement since he was not going to use all of his 5 minutes of speaking time. Mr. Farmer continued to read the statement as follows:

*"There are many specifics connected with the items mentioned above. This overall summary is a reminder that **New Berlin's in a messy situation...and everything is fixable**, but not through excuses and procrastination. Borough council members need to be part of the solution, but there are many non-members who have ideas and who can help. Please tap into this creativity and determination.*

A final point must be made: if a concern doesn't explicitly come under the jurisdiction of borough council, then the hope & assumption is that council members will nevertheless care enough to take the extra step to guide a solution as the problem is still a resident's---a residential---concern.

The question can't be IF an issue can be fixed; the question has to be HOW can it be fixed.

We're better than this.

*Very sincerely,
Nancy Showers"*

President Finkbiner thanked Nancy Showers for her comments.

David Farmer - 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance – David Farmer spoke regarding the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Ordinance as follows (text was copied and pasted from an email of the text provided by the speaker):

The Borough Council is discussing adopting a law to uphold the 2nd amendment. I understand, and agree with, the reasons people want such a law. The US Constitution is the greatest legal document ever written, and we should all support it.

It is natural to want to voice your opinion on important matters, especially something like the 2nd amendment, where it seems like a lot of people don't even know what it says.

I understand and agree with the ideas, but I don't agree with the action

the Borough Council is contemplating. Let me explain.

Our Borough solicitor has been working on this and is going to give a report later. Let me guess what the report will say. It will say that either you make a law that agrees with the constitution, in which case the law adds nothing, or you make a law that goes against the constitution, in which case the law is invalid.

In other words, the proposed law does not add any new protections.

What I am telling you is not a surprise, so let me say out loud what everyone already knows: the purpose of this law is to send a message. That is what people want: to send a message. Upholding the Constitution is a message we should all agree with, but still, it is just a message.

The laws of New Berlin is not the place to send a message.

But the real reason I am against this proposal is that it is costing a lot of money. I'm guessing we already spent \$1000 on this, and the proposed survey and town hall meeting could cost another \$1000, and that is not even the end of it. If the people who are pushing for this are willing to foot the bill, then please write a check to the Borough. Otherwise, please don't spend my money on your message.

Crafting good laws and responsibly spending our money is why we elected you. You don't need a survey and a town hall meeting to know that this is not what Borough Council should spend its time doing. Please be responsible, do your elected duty, and set this matter aside so that you can spend our money wisely and focus on the numerous other issues at hand.

Tonya Greiner – New Resident – Tonya Greiner stated she and her husband recently bought the New Berlin Inn. She wanted to come to council to say that they love the town and the town is beautiful. Mrs. Greiner went on to say that she loves walking around town, loves the parks, and is in New Berlin to stay. That being said, she noticed that cars begin to speed and are loud right about the time they get to her house from the stop sign. She's noticed that a police officer sits at the intersection a lot. She is not sure what the solution is but if the police come once in awhile on the weekends, maybe that will hinder people from speeding and making excessive noise with their vehicles. Other than that, she has nothing negative to say about New Berlin and she's happy to live here.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Community Center Committee – Landscaping – Councilwoman Shambach stated the committee has not yet met. The Penn State students designed a landscape on their own with the help of UC Soil Conservation. The committee will look at the design and glean from it for ideas.

Fire Department Liaison Report – Councilwoman Meghan Shambach stated the fireman’s carnival, parade, and all other events have been cancelled until further notice. The fire department may decide to do a chicken barbeque for a fundraiser sometime later in the summer. The fire department inquired if council would allow them to use the drive at the former New Berlin Elementary School for chicken barbeque pickup. President Finkbiner stated the fire department would need to coordinate with the secretary/treasurer to make sure there are no other events or rentals on the grounds on the date they choose.

Meghan Shambach reported that the fire department will be holding an Archangel fundraiser sometime in July. The event was approved for insurance purposes.

Activities Committee – Councilwoman Barbara Stamm stated the activities committee cancelled all events up until New Berlin Day. The committee still plans to hold the New Berlin Day event.

With regards to the fireworks, the activities committee will not be receiving their entire \$4,000.00 fireworks deposit back. Mayor Bonnie Hamilton stated the emails circulating within the activities committee stated they were cancelling the event as early as they did so the deposit could be refunded. The secretary/treasurer stated that was also posted on the activities committee page. Councilwoman Stamm stated only a portion of the deposit will be returned. Mayor Hamilton stated the reason the activities committee voted the way that they did was because the language in the email stated the deposit would be able to be refunded.

Solicitor Cole asked if someone from the activities committee could forward her the contract. There may be an “Act of God” clause in the contract that allows for cancellation. She stated that she is willing to look at the contract if someone will forward it to her. Councilwoman Stamm stated she would get the contract from Shirl Hummel and forward it to the solicitor for review.

POLICE REPORT – The March, April, and May police reports were reviewed. No questions were raised. Officer Bustin has been working a lot of hours, the police hours have increased significantly over the past few months. The other officers have not been able to work due to a COVID-19 condition of their full-time employment. They will resume work for the borough when the restriction is lifted.

STREET SUPERVISORS REPORT – School Repair Wind Damage – The street department supervisor reported that the wind damage to the former New Berlin Elementary School has been repaired. The repair is not permanent but will prevent water and other elements from penetrating the building. Upon observation, the walls on that part of the building are styrofoam and are only held there by glue. With all the other moisture and damage to the building, it's just a matter of time before the remaining walls start to fall apart as well.

Road Repair – It was inquired if the roads have been surveyed to determine if there should be any paving or road repair this summer. The street department supervisor stated they have been doing some cold patch to repair parts of some roads. There are some alleys and intersections he would like to access for repair next year.

Ditch near Walnut Street – The street department supervisor stated he is going to get the ditch cleaned out near Walnut Street. Debris have built up over the years, preventing water from correctly diverting.

Water Fountain at Plum Street Park – The water fountain will soon be installed at Plum Street Park. The only concern the street department supervisor had was regarding winterizing the fountain and line. The secretary/treasurer stated there is a shut off and drain in the fountain itself and a shut off and drain on the line which will accommodate for full winterization. The winterization was accounted for in the original plan for the line. The secretary/treasurer stated that Chip Schlegel is willing to show the street department how to winterize the line, if needed.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Hamilton reported she signed a letter to the commissioners that was circulated amongst several area officials. The letter encouraged the commissioners to listen to science and follow the established structured reopening plan. The virus is very serious and everyone should be safe and take into account the safety of others as well.

Feral Cats – Mayor Hamilton stated the feral cat population is once again increasing in her area of town. With the vet offices closed due to COVID-19, she was unable to make the progress she wanted with regards to controlling the population. There are several kittens available if anyone knows of someone who would like to adopt one.

SOLICITORS REPORT – 608 Spangler Street – Auctioneer Contract – Motion – A contract from Hess Auctioneering for auctioneering services to auction off 608 Spangler Street was previously distributed and reviewed by the solicitor. A motion will be needed for the record to officially accept the contract.

Motion – Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a motion to approve the contract for auctioneering services. Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Writ of Possession – 407-411 Front Street – Solicitor Cole stated the Writ of Possession was received for 407-411 Front Street. A deed was filed to transfer any interest in the property to the borough.

Motion – Councilwoman Barbara Stamm made a motion to file the deed for 407-411 Front Street. Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

407-411 Front Street Costs – The secretary/treasurer stated the costs incurred on the property known as 407-411 Front Street, along with the estimated demolition cost, is approximately \$27,854.41. That amount does not include the taxes paid listed on the agenda or the solicitor's fees. Some of the costs incurred, such as the borough real estate taxes and the lien, will be payable

back to the borough.

2nd Amendment Sanctuary Resolution Survey – The solicitor, the mayor, and Councilwoman Lisa Decker worked on the 2nd Amendment sanctuary resolution survey language and questions. Solicitor Cole stated that council preferred to look at adopting a resolution rather than an ordinance. While state and federal law override local law in most instances, council is considering adopting a resolution to make a statement. Council desires to hear from its residents regarding them passing a resolution before considering if they want to adopt the resolution. There were several questions asked and answered regarding red flag laws, current gun laws, and liability.

Deadline for the survey to be turned into the borough was set for July 30, 2020.

Motion – Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a motion to distribute the survey and information about the survey with changes to the first question and also changes to make the name, address, and age required as to avoid duplication. Councilwoman Betty Kratzer made a 2nd to the motion. The secretary/treasurer stated she would send out a draft with the changes before publication. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

NEW BERLIN MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY - Minutes – Councilwoman Shambach stated that the April 28, 2020 NBMA minutes mentioned making a claim against a property and inquired if claims against properties were permitted during the COVID-19 crisis. It was stated that Councilwoman Shambach should direct that question to the NBMA solicitor.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Balance – General Fund - Rebecca Witmer reported the balance in the General Fund as \$130,798.51.

Liquid Fuels Payment – A liquid fuels allocation in the amount of \$32,869.50 was received on February 14, 2020.

Liquid Fuels Audit – The secretary/treasurer stated the 2019 Liquid Fuels audit was completed with no findings. The audit was just received this afternoon. If anyone wishes to receive a copy, please

let her know and she will make sure they receive it.

Former NBE School Wind Damage Insurance Claim – The insurance company was contacted regarding the wind damage at the former elementary school. The adjuster’s preliminary oral estimate was stated to be approximately \$12,300.00. The insurance money will go into the general fund once received.

Borough Building Copier – The secretary/treasurer reminded council that the old borough office copier is not in use and a determination should be made as to what should be done with the old copier.

READING AND SIGNING OF BILLS/PAYROLL – Councilwoman Lisa Decker made a motion to pay the bills with any additions. Councilman Barry Kuhns made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

BILLS TO BE PAID FROM M&T GENERAL FUNDS ACCOUNT

M&T Bank – March Checking Service Charge	25.00
PA Department of Revenue	175.91
US Treasury	1,281.66
Deluxe Checks – ACH Debit	406.16
AT&T Mobility	53.50
Christin Ranck	85.00
DE Lange Landen Financial Services, Inc.	150.57
Hometown Disposal, lp	141.57
PP&L Electric	1,463.07
Sherry A. Shoemaker	85.00
Snyder County Times	180.50
Star Seal of Pennsylvania	992.16
Union County Treasurer	438.75
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	265.66
Curt Keister	772.83
Jacob Shipman	147.39
Leif E Hassenplug	363.48
Michael H Mattocks	770.91
Rawlin Swanger	155.97
Rebecca A. Witmer	2,350.82
Rodney E. Styers	104.90
William F Stamm	593.82

Cardmember Service	2,672.76
Coles Hardware	39.02
Ervin Blank Associates, Inc.	125.00
Kim Barton	170.00
Mifflinburg Lumber	561.98
PP&L	905.97
Rebecca Heidler	85.00
Selinsgrove Ford	738.85
The Daily Item	160.95
Andrew K Bustin	1,167.43
Berkheimer	315.94
PA UC	9.39
PA Department of Revenue	246.76
US Treasury	1,823.80
Hometown Disposal, Ip	72.89
Martin's Small Engine Repair	83.45
PP&L	423.08
State Industrial Products	3,968.00
Union County Commissioners	138.00
Windstream Buffalo Valley, Inc.	268.97
A+ Office Outlet	1,044.48
DE Lange Landen Financial Services, Inc.	75.57
Martin's Small Engine Repair	25.44
Quill Corporation	211.20
Amber Martin	85.00
AT&T Mobility	62.34
Andrew Bustin	300.55
Cardmember Service	1,184.80
Kim Barton	35.00
Andrew K Bustin	2,071.27
Curt Keister	441.75
Michael Mattocks	389.54
Rawlin Swanger	162.19
Rebecca Witmer	2,697.84
Rodney E. Styers	69.82
William Stamm	596.53
US Treasury	1,823.80
PA Dept of Revenue	246.76
A+ Office Outlet	145.00
PP&L	857.57
A1 Lock & Key	252.00
Iddings Quarry	320.75
Windstream Buffalo Valley	264.99
Andrew Bustin	10.56
Atlantic Tactical	6.99
DE Lange Landen Financial Services, Inc.	75.57

Hometown Disposal, Ip	71.34
Phil Miller's Electric	300.00
PP&L	30.57
Alecia Libby	85.00
AT&T Mobility	164.05
Keystone Communications	365.00
PP&L	306.23
Valley Pest Management	525.00
Atlantic Tactical	136.97
Cardmember Service	1,014.67
Kim Barton	35.00
Topp Business Solutions	27.70
PA Department of Revenue	250.39
US Treasury	130.98
Andrew Bustin	1,891.28
Curt Keister	568.68
Leif E Hassenplug	62.58
Michael Mattocks	828.11
Rawlin Swanger	95.93
Rebecca A Witmer	1,833.80
Rodney E Styers	205.43
William Stamm	768.15
A+ Office Outlet	2,601.33
Coles Hardware	81.91
Martin's Small Engine Repair	57.94
PP&L	850.74
Share Corporation	413.82
Union County Tax Claim Bureau	6,222.07
Windstream Buffalo Valley Inc.	264.99
Mifflinburg Lumber	354.36
New Berlin Tax Collector	1,103.24
Barbara Stamm	150.00
Barry Kuhns	150.00
Betty Kratzer	150.00
Bonnie Hamilton	150.00
Julianne Finkbiner	150.00
Lisa Decker	150.00
Lynda Frederick	150.00
Meghan Shambach	150.00
DE Lange Landen Financial Services, Inc.	75.57
Hometown Disposal, Ip	69.91
PP&L Electric	30.42
TOTAL	\$61,462.34

OLD BUSINESS – Cherry Street Trucks – Councilwoman Stamm stated she was contacted by Mr. Bridge who lives on the corner of Cherry and Front Street. The sign indicating no trucks were permitted to go east on Front Street was removed from the back of the stop sign at that location. Councilwoman Stamm stated she understood why it needed to be taken off of the stop sign. The secretary/treasurer stated that if the councilwoman understood why it needed to be taken down, the matter could have been addressed a little differently than it was that day. Councilwoman Stamm stated that Mr. Bridge was upset that the sign was being removed and that he had contacted the secretary/treasurer. The secretary/treasurer stated that Mr. Bridge had not contacted her regarding the issue. Councilwoman Stamm stated she did not understand why the sign was being taken down and was faced with a situation where a constituent contacted her regarding changing the truck traffic at that location. Due to those factors, Councilwoman Stamm contacted the secretary/treasurer who told her she had them take the sign down. The secretary/treasurer stated she never said that nor did she direct the street department to take down the sign. She continued by saying that Councilwoman Stamm never asked if she directed the street department to take down the sign or she would have answered that she hadn't. As a result of the sign being taken down, the secretary/treasurer and another employee were screamed at by Councilwoman Stamm and the same employees were held up from doing their jobs for an hour to an hour and a half to explain. A contractor was in the office at the time of the incident.

Councilwoman Stamm stated she would like to discuss the sign another time but would like to call for a personnel committee meeting in executive session regarding the incident since she is being contradicted. The secretary/treasurer stated what she and the street department supervisor discussed was that the sign was an illegal sign due to it being on the back of a stop sign and there was no traffic study done to support the sign being there. Because the sign was illegal, the borough is under an obligation to take it down. Councilwoman Stamm stated the sign was there for a long time and then all of a sudden it's illegal. The secretary/treasurer stated that one of Councilwoman Stamm's arguments that day was that because the sign was up there so long, it created a legal precedent. The secretary/treasurer stated that an illegal sign cannot create a legal precedence. Also, while the councilwoman may know how long the sign had been there, the street department and borough staff was not even aware that the sign was there. When the street department

supervisor and the secretary/treasurer discussed the sign, they both determined it was illegal due to it being on the back of a stop sign and because there was no traffic study done. Months ago at a council meeting, it was explained that for a “no truck” area to be designated, a traffic study and other measures/procedures needed to be followed. Council decided at that meeting that they did not wish for trucks to be prevented from turning east at that area. The sign was not legal. Councilwoman Frederick inquired if the sign was ultimately taken down. The secretary/treasurer inquired if Curt Keister wanted to answer that or explain at all. Councilwoman Stamm stated she wanted to drop the issue and she would tell Mr. Bridge that council is working on the issue. The secretary/treasurer inquired if council was really working on it and stated the sign is illegal. Councilwoman Stamm stated she wasn’t going to argue. The secretary/treasurer stated that Councilwoman Stamm was willing to argue about it the day of the incident and willing to scream at and tie up borough workers for an hour and a half. It only ended after the chief of police, who came in after it had been happening for quite some time, said the same things that had already been said by the secretary/treasurer and the street department supervisor over and over. Councilman Kuhns inquired if the sign was illegal only because it was on the back of a stop sign. The secretary/treasurer stated it was also illegal because there was no traffic study done, no application to PennDOT, and other measures taken to make the sign legitimate. The secretary/treasurer explained that the borough cannot simply decide it wants a certain street to be designated as “one way” or “no trucks”. There is a process that needs to be followed. President Finkbiner stated it has been discussed at council meetings that if trucks were going into his yard while turning at that location, Mr. Bridge needs to pursue the matter by making a report to police. The police can get the delivery records from the company to determine which truck it was and then the trucking company’s insurance will pay for any damages. The borough needs to go through the same process if one of its stop signs is knocked down or property destroyed. Councilman Kuhns inquired if Mr. Bridge could put a camera up on his property. It was answered that he could. Councilman Kuhns stated he remembered the subject being brought up at another council meeting but did not remember it being stated that the sign was illegal. President Finkbiner stated that the specific sign in question wasn’t discussed because no one was aware the sign was there at the time. The borough just found out about it through a telephone call from someone who works at PennDOT and happened to notice the sign. The worker gave the office a call to let the borough know that the sign should not be placed on the back of a stop sign. The secretary/treasurer told

the street department of the phone call and also let them know that she looked in the file but no traffic study was done at that location so the sign was illegal either way. The street department reasonably determined the same and that the sign needed to come down. Councilwoman Stamm stated that she first called the secretary/treasurer to ask why the sign was being taken down and was handed confrontation. Councilwoman Stamm continued by stating she then told the secretary/treasurer that she couldn't talk about it at the moment and hung up the phone to go to the borough office. Councilwoman Stamm then received a text from the secretary/treasurer stating that her action of hanging up the phone was childish. The secretary/treasurer stated she did send that text because it was childish. However, Councilwoman Stamm hung up the phone on her when she held out the phone to the street department supervisor and asked if he would like to take the call to explain. Councilwoman Stamm stated she didn't want to talk about it anymore due her not being informed that the subject was going to be on the agenda therefore was not prepared for the discussion. The Secretary/Treasurer stated it was on the agenda because Councilwoman Stamm wanted it on there. President Finkbiner stated that council would move on.

Animal Ordinance – Mayor Hamilton stated the committee revising the animal ordinance has not met. Visitor and resident Cheryl Hoover stated she is aware of a situation on Plum Street where a pit bull is coming out and attacking people on the property. Mrs. Hoover's understanding is that the incidents have been reported but, for whatever reason, no action has been taking place. The secretary/treasurer explained that the dog warden has been investigating and taking care of those issues. The local police department can fine the owner if the dog is not on a leash but the fine starts somewhere at around \$25.00 or \$50.00. If the local police department investigates and issues a citation then the dog warden will not do so since only one entity can issue the fine. In this case, more is happening than the dog being off a leash. The dog warden has much more legal power to deal with the incidents and can issue larger fines for the incidents. The person who was recently chased by the dog called the borough to inform them of the incident but also stated she knew it was not a borough issue since it was already reported to the dog warden and the dog warden was in charge of the investigation. The borough was informed by the individual just so the borough was aware of the incident in case anyone else called or had a similar incident. The dog warden and the borough have been in contact.

Energy Contract – Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to enter into a contract for energy at .06106 kWh for 36 months. Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

Municipal Notification System – Councilwoman Stamm stated she thought it would be a good idea to get a notification system that would notify people via telephone when something was happening within the borough. Council stated it would be something to explore if it would be for borough office and council related information only. Councilwoman Stamm stated her idea was more along the lines of all committees and agencies in town being able to use it as well. For instance, the system could be used for little league sign-ups, brush and limb pick-up, fire company events, and any other events in town. Using a telephone notification system would help disseminate information to those residents who do not use a computer. Councilwoman Stamm stated creating an organization to facilitate a notification system may be something to consider. It was an idea that came to her through brainstorming; it does not need to be discussed at the present meeting.

Fee Resolution - The fee resolution was distributed to council for consideration going into next year. The finance committee will begin to look at the resolution as part of their 2021 budget meetings.

Liberty Street Bridge Project and Plum Street Park Walkway Updates - Both the Liberty Street Bridge and Plum Street Park Walkway projects were put on hold during the COVID-19 crisis. Both of those projects are now moving forward. A bid opening is scheduled for the Liberty Street Bridge Project. Council is scheduled to award that at the next meeting. The Plum Street Park Walkway project bid packet is almost complete and will be advertised for bid sometime in the next few months.

NEW BUSINESS – 2020 Real Estate Tax Penalty Phase – Due to the COVID-19 crisis, council agreed to forgo the penalty phase of 2020 real estate taxes making the face value of the taxes the amount due by December 31, 2020. Any taxes not paid by the end of the year will still be remitted to the tax claim bureau and penalties will be assessed at that time.

June 10, 2020

Motion – Vice-President Lisa Decker made a motion to pass a resolution forgoing the penalty period for the 2020 real estate taxes. Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor and none opposed. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion – Councilwoman Lynda Frederick made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Barry Kuhns made a 2nd to the motion. Vote was taken with all in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca A. Witmer,
Secretary/Treasurer

MAYOR