

**BOROUGH OF LAWRENCEVILLE
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

Jack Young called the Regular Meeting of the Lawrenceville Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Members:

Marian Russell

Mildred Bliss

Maxine Smith-Absent

Gordon Chilson

Larry Barnes

Jack Young

Kris Davis

Mayor:

Diana Barnes

Secretary:

Judy Woythal

Visitors:

Brad Hackett

Bill Dincher

Walt Beach

Wayne Hopper

Rosita Delia

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-Larry Barnes made a Motion to approve the minutes of October 3, 2011, and October 24, 2011, seconded by Marian Russell. All members present voted yea.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS – Bill Dincher, code enforcer, read his report and then left the meeting. Dave Alexyn from Real Disposal did not attend the meeting.

Bob Blair, TCDC President, spoke about the Tioga County Preferential Tax Assessment Plan. This new five (5) year abatement program was developed to assist industries and businesses locating or expanding in Tioga County. The Plan is structured to reduce the real estate taxes based on only two (2) conditions:

- 1) On New Building Construction; and/or**
- 2) Major Restoration to Existing Real Estate which will Result in an Increased Real Estate Assessment.**

A company can receive tax abatement for the new tax value assessed on their buildings(s) for a five (5) year period. The taxes generated are new taxes and do not affect the existing real estate which is currently assessed. Several townships and boroughs have a Tax Abatement Ordinance. The percentage of reduction would change each year of the 5 year period.

The Council discussed whether to proceed or not with a Tax Abatement Ordinance. Council will review a copy of the Mansfield Tax Abatement Ordinance as a sample.

Larry Barnes made a Motion to start the procedure regarding a Tax Abatement Ordinance, seconded by Marian Russell. A Roll Call Vote was taken with all members present voting yea.

Resident, Rosita Delia commented that the public should be aware that this Tax Abatement would more than likely apply to the frac treatment water facility.

Open Snowplow bids – Jack Young opened and read the one bid that was received for snowplowing. American Waterworks - \$ 90 per hour/per truck. The Council discussed the rate as being high and that complaints were received last year.

Mildred Bliss made a Motion to reject the snowplow bid, seconded by Kris Davis. All members present voted yea.

Gordon Chilson made a Motion to re-advertise for bids for snow removal, in the Wellsboro Gazette, Penny saver, Leader, and Dollar Saver, seconded by Mildred Bliss. The bids will be opened at the December 5, 2011 council meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS – The Association Christmas Dinner meeting will be held on December 9, 2011 at Penn Wells.

TREASURER’S REPORT- Larry Barnes made a Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Marian Russell. All members present voted yea.

Cherry Street Park Project invoices – a transfer of \$ 1,000 from general funds to the park project account is needed. All grant funding has not been received yet, but invoices need to be paid. Gordon Chilson made a Motion for the secretary to transfer funds to pay park invoices as necessary, seconded by Kris Davis. All members present voted yea.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – Marian Russell made a Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 7,331.37, seconded by Mildred Bliss. All members present voted yea.

MAYOR’S REPORT- Diana Barnes not present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Library- estimate for repair of steps is needed for the budget. Larry Barnes will contact Tim Gee for an estimate.**
- B. Building Enforcement/Zoning Officer**
- C. Public Works: Streets and Dikes – The Council discussed the balance of the grant funding for the dike that needs to be used by June 30, 2012. It was suggested to spray next spring and woodchuck control.**

Painting of crosswalk and stop lines at the traffic light - A quote was received in the amount of \$ 2,650 from Nelson & Streeter. With the weather turning cold, the Council decided to wait until spring for the painting, as it would last longer.

Hole in Rip Rap on the dike near the Historic tree. Jack Young stated that the dike committee needs to look at it and determine if a truckload of stone is needed. The dike committee will look at the hole.

Parks – Kris Davis suggested that a basketball court be put in the playground park on Cherry Street. Other Council members suggested that it may be better located on the lot next to the fire hall, as the playground is more for smaller children. Marian Russell reported that the planning commission would like to see a pavilion in the park. It was suggested to use last year’s budget number for the parks 2012 budget.

Pothole repair – The Council discussed the potholes on Franklin Street, Mill Street and Center Street. Kris Davis stated he would check out the potholes and check on the availability of blacktop.

Mayor Diana Barnes arrived at the meeting. Diana reported that there has been damage to signs in the Borough by juveniles.

Update on James Street Project – all the caseworkers have been working on setting up ERC’s (Emergency Response Centers) for the recent storm devastation and have not processed any grants yet.

D. Personnel and Appointment – Executive Session

At 8:12 PM, Jack Young called a recess from the regular meeting to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:40 PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – The Council discussed the recodification. The hourly fee from Cox, Stokes, and Lantz’s office is \$ 45 per hour. Marian Russell made a Motion to continue with the code book and have Lantz’s office review it, seconded by Larry Barnes. A Roll Call Vote was taken with all members present voting yea, except Gordon Chilson voted NO.

Water Puddles near 34 & 35 State Street – looking for small heavy duty metal drains, price quote was for \$ 640 each. Will try to find lower price.

Police Protection – Township – The finance committee will work on a budget for police protection.

Electric pricing – Marian Russell presented the Council with a list of electric rates from several electric companies. IDT appeared to be the best deal.

**Larry Barnes made a Motion to switch to IDT, seconded by Marian Russell. A Roll Call Vote was taken with all members present voting yea.
NEW BUSINESS – Budget – the finance committee will work on this.**

Short sign posts are needed. Kris Davis made a Motion to purchase 10 short sign posts, seconded by Larry Barnes. All members present voted yea.

Resolution # 352 – TCC/Keystone Collections – Local Service Tax. The Lawrenceville Borough and the Tioga County Tax Collection Committee agree that the Tioga County Tax Collection Committee shall collect the local service tax through Keystone Collections. Larry Barnes made a Motion to adopt Resolution # 352, seconded by Marian Russell. All members present voted yea.

Diana Barnes reported that the Calvary United Methodist Church was approached by the County Church's to help the homeless. Calvary Church will host 2 weeks during the winter a place for homeless to sleep at the Friendship center and offer breakfast and supper. There will be a registration process.

Marian Russell made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 PM, seconded by Mildred Bliss.

Minutes recorded by and printed by Judy Woythal, Secretary