

**Minutes  
Throop Borough Council  
Monthly Meeting  
Monday, April 28, 2003  
7:00 p.m.**

**The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.**

***“God Bless Our Military and the Coalition”***

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members Of Council:**

Anthony Chrzan - P

James Barnick - P

**Vice President-** Thomas Lukasewicz - P

**President-**James Mellody Jr. - P

George Marushock - P

Daryl Menichetti - P

Joseph Barone - P

**Mayor -** Stanley Lukowski - P

**Solicitor -** Attorney Louis Cimini - P

**Treasurer -** Lenore Dolan - A

**Administrator/Secretary -** Elaine Morrell - P

**Announcements:**

Thurs., May 8, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. - Special Monthly Work Session/Meeting

Thurs., May 15, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. - Public Hearing as per a petition requesting a hearing in regards to the vacating of Clay St. between Ridge St and Martarano Dr. A Special Meeting will follow to act on vacating Clay St.

Thurs., May 22, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. - Monthly work session followed by the monthly meeting. (Due to the observance of Memorial Day, the May monthly meeting will immediately follow the work session.)

**Official Comments:**

Council members added three motions to the printed agenda, as follows:

- . To allow Scott Gretzula to return to work as per his physician (Motion 20).
- . To retain the services of Patrick Coleman of Tellie & Coleman (Motion 21).
- . To rescind Motion #1 of January 24, 2002 (Motion 22).

There was a discussion with Bob Padfield, Borough Engineer (Frederick C. Spott & Assoc., Inc.), regarding the Keystone Detention Basin Outlet Pipe Replacement Project (Motion #14).

**Addressing Council:**

Matt Cortazar, President, Throop Community Ambulance, asked if council had any questions with regard to the ambulance. A discussion ensued, referencing an ambulance vehicle parked in Dickson City. Another representative lived in Dickson City and explained the vehicle was a first responder and answered calls through the night. Council asked if discretion and courtesy could be used with regard to the siren in a residential area during the night and early morning hours.

**Audience comments on tonight's agenda:**

**Frank Galli, 609 Kossuth St.:** Wanted to know why more monitors were being hired for the civic center (Motion 16 and 17).

*Mellody said two or three people were no longer working and Lukasewicz agreed and added the monitors were for the day care.*

**1. Motion by Marushock**

**Seconded by Lukasewicz**

To accept the zoning reports, landfill inspectors reports and the minutes of the Mar.31, 2003 meeting.

All in favor

Motion carried

**TREASURER'S REPORTS:**

**2. Motion by Barone**

**Seconded by Lukasewicz**

To accept the treasurer's reports as read or posted and to pay the monthly bills against the borough.

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Unpaid bills:            | \$38,801.36         |
| Paid bills:              | 73,124.03           |
| <b>Grand total</b>       | <b>\$111,925.39</b> |
| Keystone Landfill Credit | \$10,335.27         |
| Home Program             | \$1,931.48          |
| Revenue Report           | \$657,292.84        |

On the question:

**Marushock:** Regarding the items for payment for the month of April, 2003, I will voting against the elected officials portion of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield bill, against the \$6,250.00 for the Scartelli Law Firm, against the \$94.00 submitted by Gannett Fleming. I believe that it is for the month of April.

**Barnick:** I notice some locks were changed here. I will not be voting for the bill (Sentry Lock) which is \$381.00 - the lock on the police station, the front door. I understand they're special locks but I cannot see spending \$381 for one lock with twenty six keys.

Marushock: I was asked for an approval for that and the reason I did give my approval was there was a lot of traffic, unnecessary traffic in my opinion, going into that police station with a lot of confidential records that people should not have any knowledge of. With this new system there should be a limited amount of people in there and that is it.

Barnick: Is that right? \$381.00?

*Elaine stated she called the purchasing committee, Chrzan, Barone and Marushock.*

*Chrzan stated he did not remember.*

All in favor, Barnick, Marushock, except as noted Motion carried

**3. Motion by Chrzan**

**Seconded by Lukasewicz**

To pay all the employees of Throop Borough.

On the question:

**Marushock:** I will be voting against the borough treasurer's pay of \$1,000 per month. I will be voting against the maintenance fee for the Washington Street ballfield (Park) in the amount of \$500 per month.

Barone: Who's going to do this work? You're voting against everybody's pay. You're voting against the lawyer. *Barone asked who would take care of the park for \$500.00 a month.*

**Marushock:** And I am voting against the solicitor's pay because we have a proposal for the same services in the amount of \$40,000.

Barone: You never brought that guy around. I asked you to bring him around and you never brought him around.

**Marushock:** I provided written documentation. **The other thing is against the treasurer's salary.**

Barone: Yeah, what's wrong with that?

Marushock: Because Dickson City pays their.....

Barone: I don't care about Dickson City. *Both speaking at once.*

Barnick: How much do they pay their general coordinate treasurer for handling their funds being the civic center? Because they have a separate authority. *Few speaking at once. A discussion ensued.*

All in favor except Marushock, as noted

Motion carried

4. **Motion by Marushock** **Seconded by Mellody**

To accept the correspondence as read or posted.

All in favor

Motion carried

**ADMINISTRATOR'S FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

5. **Motion by Lukasewicz** **Seconded by Marushock**

To accept the Fund Statement, Budgeted Revenue & Expense Statement and Loan Balance for the month of March, 2003.

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| General Fund Checking Account   | <b>\$385,291.10</b>   |
| General Fund Petty Cash   | <b>200.00</b>         |
| Payroll Checking Account  | <b>1,508.16</b>       |
| Civic Center Account  | <b>250.00</b>         |
| Civic Center Petty Cash   | <b>250.00</b>         |
| FNCB Escrow Acct. Throop vs. Gould  | <b>200,722.26</b>     |
| Sunny Day Fund CD's   | <b>2,274,016.93</b>   |
| Home Program State Grant  | <b>1,931.48</b>       |
| Civic Center After School Program   | <b>500.00</b>         |
| South Valley Ave. Grant   | <b>81,106.37</b>      |
| Warsaw Playground   | <b>28,235.78</b>      |
| Liquid Fuels Account  | <b>133,994.08</b>     |
| <b>Fund Statement Grand Total:</b>  | <b>\$3,108,006.16</b> |
| <b>(Interest Free) LOAN Balance:</b><br><b>Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc.</b><br>(Two payments in the amount of<br>\$262,500.00 each will be paid during the<br>next two quarters, 2003.) | <b>\$1,925,000.00</b> |

All in favor

Motion carried

**6. Motion by Chrzan** **Seconded by Marushock**

To allocate ½ of the budgeted allotment in the amount of \$12,500.00 to each of our three volunteer fire departments, Throop Hose Co's. # 1, # 2 and #3.

All in favor

Motion carried

**7. Motion by Marushock** **Seconded by Chrzan**

To allocate ½ of the budgeted allotment to our fire marshal and assistants:

Jerry Barone, Fire Marshall - \$200.00

Maurice Menichetti, Assistant - \$100.00

Ed Bocan, Assistant - \$100.00

All in favor

Motion carried

**8. Motion by Chrzan** **Seconded by Barnick**

To authorize Tony Amico to attend the (PACOG) Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Governments workshop "Planning Beyond Boundaries: Multi-Municipal Land Use Planning at a fee of \$20.00.

All in favor

Motion carried

**9. Motion by Marushock** **Seconded by Barone**

To authorize payment to Edward G. Krowiak, Esquire (Zoning Hearing Board Attorney) in the amount of \$6,241.00 for services from June 1, 2002 through April 25, 2003.

On the question:

Mayor: Just remember, this is for a year. Not for one, single, meeting. I hope that sticks in people's minds.

All in favor

Motion carried

**10. Motion by Chrzan** **Seconded by Barone**

**Motion #10 failed, as follows:**

To authorize payment to Elliott, Reihner & Siedzikowski (Attorney Doug Blazey) in the amount of \$2,332.63 in regards to zoning.

On the question:

Barnick: I will not be voting for it.

Lukasewicz: There were other items in there besides zoning.

Barone: Yeah, but he's got to be paid. He did the work, right?

Barnick: I don't know, I sat through some of the hearings. I wasn't impressed.

Menichetti: This is strictly in regards to zoning?

Lukasewicz: If you look at the bill, there's some items on there aside from zoning.

Menichetti: The motion reads, in regards to zoning.

Morrell: That's the way he has it classified on the heading of his cover sheet.

Chrzan: The man did the work, he's got to get paid whether you like it or not. If you don't like it, sue him.

Two in favor - Chrzan, Barone

Five against - Barnick, Lukasewicz, Marushock, Menichetti, Mellody

**Motion Failed**

**11. Motion by Chrzan**

**Seconded by Barnick**

To authorize payment to Mark Wozniak, Zoning Stenographer, in the amount of \$350.40.

All in favor

Motion carried

**12. Motion by Chrzan**

**Seconded by Lukasewicz**

To allocate \$5,000.00 to Jamie Shevchik for maintenance of the Washington Street Park Ball Field.

*The same amount was allocated for 2002.*

*A discussion took place and ensued.*

Four in favor - Chrzan, Barnick, Lukasewicz, Barone

Three against - Marushock, Menichetti, Mellody

Motion carried

**13. Motion by Barone**

**Seconded by Lukasewicz**

To allocate \$1,000.00 to Gail Ercoli for the Summer Program at the Washington Street Park.

On the question:

Menichetti: Now, does this include the staff? So it's another \$7,500 on top of this, is that right?

That's what it was last year. *Morrell indicated it did not include the staff and it would be whatever the hourly rate was.*

All in favor

Motion carried

**14. Motion by Barnick**

**Seconded by Chrzan**

To authorize the Borough Engineer, Frederick C. Spott and Associates, to obtain phone quotes for the “Keystone Detention Basin, Outlet Pipe Replacement Project” in compliance with the “Borough Code” and the solicitor’s opinion. To authorize Spott & Assoc. to obtain prices for the pipe so the borough may purchase the pipe outright and to obtain quotes for the labor/installation. To authorize the engineer to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder. Council is to receive a copy of the quotes when they are received.

On the question:

Barone: Mr. Marushock, you’re always talking about saving money, how come you people decided to pass that (?) and throw \$1600 in to fix it and now you’re going to have to tear it up and throw that \$1600 away.

Marushock: I did not.....We felt it was the right thing to do. When that one was put it in it evidently was not installed properly. *Few speaking at once. A discussion ensued.*

All in favor

Motion carried

**15. Motion by Lukasewicz**

**Seconded by Barone**

To schedule the payments for the \$1,550,000.00 loan with FNCB, Dunmore. This is a 10 year loan at 3.85 % fixed interest rate.

Quarterly Principal payments beginning in August 2005. (The state requires the payments to begin 2 years after the loan commences. The loan is anticipated to be completed by July, 2003 including the state requirements.)

Quarterly Interest payments beginning 2003, in conjunction with the loan.

On the question:

Barnick: We discussed certain projects that were going to be accomplished with this money. Very specifically, so we’re not going to deviate from these specific projects.

*Elaine explained the list approved by council in March was submitted to the FNCB and was going to be incorporated in the papers to be provided to the state.*

Marushock: I am not supporting this loan and dead against this loan right from the beginning. Somehow we need to control our costs within our means. We currently had a problem this year, about a month ago, when we did not meet the financial obligations of a \$700,000 payment. At the time we only had \$175,000 and, through the cooperation of the originator of the loan, we were able to make *(arrangements)*. If you borrow, borrow, borrow and spend, spend, spend, nowhere at all are we controlling any of our costs. We cannot continue on this road.

Barnick: We took 3.5 million dollars..... *The tape was changed here. Menichetti called the question.*

Four in favor - Chrzan, Barnick, Lukasewicz, Barone

Three against - Marushock, Menichetti, Mellody      Motion carried

**16. Motion by Chrzan**

**Seconded by Marushock**

To appoint Robyn Green, Throop as a civic center monitor/assistant group supervisor at a rate of \$7.00 per hour. This is a part time position. (All clearances must be met.)

Six in favor - Chrzan, Lukasewicz, Marushock, Menichetti, Barone, Mellody  
One against - Barnick  
Motion carried

**17. Motion by Chrzan**

**Seconded by Marushock**

To appoint Barbara Hunt, Throop as a civic center monitor/assistant group supervisor at a rate of \$7.00 per hour. This is a part time position. (All clearances must be met.)

On the question:

Barnick: I want to point out I'm not against these people getting a job over there or anything like that. I'm saying I just think it's too excessive with all the monitors. There's got to be some kind of control already. *Few speaking at once.*

Barone: Don't we have enough monitors over there? With these monitors, she has to control the monitors, the monitors can't control them. If they don't want to come to work and they applied for these jobs.... Don't get me wrong, I like all the monitors over there but this had been happening before these girls were pregnant. I don't want to come in today, I got a date, I can't come in.

*Elaine explained there are enough on the list but there are numerous times that someone cannot make it to work - there are a few employees that quit, two girls just had babies, one is not back yet, one is working part time, another is having a baby shortly, one broke her wrist and one got a full time position.*

Menichetti: They only have so many hours to work in the week, that's it. *Few speaking at once.*

Barnick: What happens when all these people start coming back? What are you going to do with them all? How are you going to work them? Where are you going to work them?

Menichetti: If there's no work, there's no work.

Six in favor - Chrzan, Lukasewicz, Marushock, Menichetti, Barone, Mellody  
One against - Barnick  
Motion carried

**18. Motion by Marushock**

**Seconded by Menichetti**

To authorize Roto Rooter to camera the sanitary line at the lower end of Sanderson St. between Manholes # 2 and # 3 as per the recommendation of LRBSA.

On the question:

Marushock: This is a start to improve that situation down there.

Barnick: Is it a start? Because the county recommended the whole line be videoed. Did you check with our engineer to see if they ever worked on that line, if they ever reviewed that line, if they ever



**22. Motion by Menichetti**

**Seconded by Marushock**

**Motion #22 failed, as follows:**

To rescind Motion # 1 - January 24, 2002 meeting: *"To intervene with Mid Valley School District in regards to the tax assessment on the landfill."*

On the question:

Marushock: I am totally in favor of a county-wide reassessment, however, *inaudible, mentioning the school now wants the borough to contribute to the cost*, plus whatever increase we've received in taxes this year other than this, we're not going to touch because they're placed in escrow. So there's really no gain to us and it's going to be an additional financial burden on the borough to continue to fight this.

Four against - Chrzan, Barnick, Lukasewicz, Barone

Three in favor- Marushock, Menichetti, Mellody

**Motion failed**

**Audience Comments:**

**Frank Galli, 609 Kossuth St.** - Questioned the police contract, arbitration, arbitration fees, etc. and the status, in general. Police protection was needed for the Cow Flop (June 29, 2003) and the different alternatives to use. A discussion took place with regard to salt stored at the field.

**Carl Mauger, 1 Charles St.** - At least thirty to forty trucks were coming past his house every day, vibrating the house, the black soot, waking everyone up, and wanted to know why they were going through still.

**Dominick Rocco, 110 Sanderson St.** - Thought the other playgrounds (Warsaw, lower Throop, Skunk Hollow) should have the same program for the summer as at the Washington Street Park and discussed a fence on the 100 block of Sanderson Street that's on borough's property. He said he's been bringing it up for months and nothing has been done.

**Wayne Williams, 9 Emerald Dr.** - Asked Chrzan if any progress has been made with regard to the sidewalks at Tiffany Estates. *A discussion ensued.*

**Bob Bolus, Sanderson St.** - Said he thought some of the things that went on in the borough were horrendous and thought all council should support the volunteer ambulance, fire departments and the police department. He wanted to know who on council was covered under the borough's Blue Cross and Blue Shield. *A discussion ensued.*

**Eric Hartshorn, 140 Dimmick St.** - Told council he appreciated the ambulance and commented about an alleged incident involving Chrzan. *A discussion ensued.*

**Larry Hartshorn, 140 Dimmick St.** - Asked Chrzan why he retired from the county. *A discussion ensued.*

**23. Motion by Barnick**

**Seconded by Lukasewicz**

To have the Borough Engineer, Frederick C. Spott & Assoc. review their files on the sewer line along the lower part of Sanderson St. (100 & 200 blocks) prior to having Roto Rooter camera the line and for the engineer to provide a summary report of their documentation from the years past.

All in favor

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine Morrell, Administrator/Secretary

Minutes by Christina Sullivan, Asst. Secretary