

**Minutes
Throop Borough Council
Monthly Meeting
Monday, December 29, 2003
following the 7:00 p.m. monthly work session**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

“God Bless Our Troops and the Coalition”

ROLL CALL:

Members of Council:

Anthony Chrzan - A

Vice President- James Barnick - P

President-Thomas Lukasewicz - P

James Mellody Jr. - A

George Marushock - P

Daryl Menichetti - P

Joseph Barone - P

Mayor - Stanley Lukowski - A

Solicitor - Attorney Louis Cimini - P

Treasurer - Lenore Dolan - P

Administrator/Secretary - Elaine Morrell - P

A moment of silence was observed in memory of John J. Szczepaniak, Borough Engineer who passed away on December 14, 2003. (Spott & Associates)

Announcements:

Throop Borough Officials and Employees would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, New Year.

Blood Drive - American Legion Post # 327, Lackawanna Ave., Olyphant on Tues., Dec. 30th from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Reorganization Meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Magistrate John P. Pesota will administer the “Oath of Office” to the newly elected council members.

Ernie Cicilioni, Lackawanna County Redevelopment Authority will hold the CDBG Public Hearing will on Thursday, February 19, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in council chambers.

Tax Escrow Account	1,793.36
Civic Center Account	250.00
Civic Center Petty Cash	250.00
FNCB Escrow Acct. Throop vs. Gould	202,455.80
Sunny Day Fund CD's	2,533,772.05
Capital Projects Account	1,554,405.48
Civic Center After School Program	500.00
South Valley Ave. Grant	891.04
Warsaw Playground	28,479.63
Liquid Fuels Account	135,151.33
Fund Statement Grand Total:	4,631,943.40
(Interest Free) LOAN Balance: Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc.	Balance \$1,400,000.00
FNCB - LOAN (Plus interest)	\$1,550,000.00

All in favor

Motion carried

6. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Marushock

To adopt Throop Borough Ordinances # 1 through 5 of 2004. The ordinances are as follows: re-enacting a realty transfer tax, occupational tax, wage tax, and re-enacting a tax on assessed valuation, setting salaries and bonds relating to officials.

Ordinance # 1, the tax rate on assessed valuation of the Borough of Throop for the year 2004, shall be as follows, for general purposes, the sum of four (4) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

Ordinance # 2, the wage tax ordinance, originally enacted in 1947 and re-enacted every year thereafter, imposing a tax of one (1) percent on wages, commissions, etc. earned by the residents of the Borough of Throop, and also, on income earned in the Borough of Throop by non-residents of the Borough of Throop, with one half (1/2) of said tax to be distributed to the Mid Valley School District by the tax collecting agent designated by the Borough of Throop.

Ordinance # 3, the occupation tax, originally enacted in 1967, imposing a tax of ten (\$10) dollars per person gainfully employed in the Borough of Throop with five (\$5) of that tax to be distributed to the Mid Valley School District by the agent designated by the Borough of Throop for the collection of taxes.

Ordinance # 4, the realty transfer tax, originally enacted in 1968 and every year thereafter, imposing a tax of one-half (½) of one (1%) percent.

Ordinance # 5, the salaries and other compensation and the bonds of the borough officials be fixed as follows: Council - \$1,875.00 per year, Mayor - \$2,500.00 per year. Treasurer's bond - \$300,000.00, Tax Collector's bond \$521,405.00

On the question:

Barnick: I know these are not required to be advertised, so we would save a few bucks here. They stayed the same this year and there's a lot of words in there and I'm sure it's got to cost a pretty good buck from the (Scranton) Times to advertise these. It's not a requirement, though. There's no requirement once the Ordinances pass once - as long as there's no changes to it.

Marushock: Can we condense any of that and adopt them from previous years?

Morrell: What's confusing is we do get a letter from the county asking what the tax assessment is and the date it was voted on each year. *Few speaking at once.* It was already advertised anyway. We don't put the whole thing, I put the first paragraph.

All in favor

Motion carried

7. Motion by Marushock

Seconded by Barnick

To authorize the following variance refunds:

David Magliocchi	\$ 99.62
Steve Vidal	144.19
Paul & Karen Doyle	141.97
Michael Drutarovsky	140.12
Gary & Deborah Onofrey	<u>46.68</u>
Total	\$572.58

All in favor

Motion carried

8. Motion by Marushock

Seconded by Barone

To appoint Maurice Menichetti, Throop Hose Co. # 2, as Fire Marshal. Mr. Menichetti served two years as Assistant Fire Marshal. (Each Hose Company recommends an individual to serve two years as assistant fire marshal and the third year as fire marshal.)

All in favor

Motion carried

9. Motion by Marushock **Seconded by Barnick**

To reappoint Ed Bocan, Throop Hose Co. # 3, as Assistant Fire Marshal.

All in favor Motion carried

10. Motion by Marushock **Seconded by Barnick**

To appoint Jerry Barone, Throop Hose Co. # 1 as Assistant Fire Marshal.

All in favor Motion carried

11. Motion by Marushock **Seconded by Barnick**

To pay Giordano Insurance Agency \$139.85 for the Youth Basketball coverage.

All in favor Motion carried

12. Motion by Marushock **Seconded by Barnick**

To issue a check to Mid Valley Basketball League in the amount of \$225.00 for the entrance for the three Throop youth teams.

All in favor Motion carried

13. Motion by Menichetti **Seconded by Marushock**

To accept the offer made to Lackawanna County Tax Claim Bureau by David Morrell in reference to the property owned by Anthony Eshmont on Bellman Street. Ward 03, Block 06, Lot 17, Tax No. 12416-010-031.

On the question:

Barnick: What was that, up for taxes?

Morrell (Dave): Just a little piece with a garage on it.

All in favor Motion carried

Audience Comments/New Business:

Dominick Rocco, 110 Sanderson St. - Wanted something done with snow shoveling for Rinaldi's property on Sanderson Street. An elderly woman could not walk up the sidewalk in that area and the property owner has been very lax in prior years in cleaning the sidewalks.

Susan Shortz, 909 Franko St. - Has a letter of complaint addressed to Throop Borough Council from a resident regarding the ambulance. *A discussion took place with regard to the ambulance being a paid service.*

Larry Hartshorn, Dimmick St. - With regard to the Boulevard Project, why did his son have the obligation to go down to the magistrate to file charges and spend money for something that this borough and the contractor did. His son was in violation with a car in his yard and the borough's going to have him arrested but to fix his property, nobody pays attention to it. That was a multi-million dollar job down there and there's was nobody watching them and no inspectors and that it wasn't the first time the borough got caught with pants down. *Atty. Cimini discussed the status of the disputed items between Leeward and Throop Borough. A discussion took place.*

Eric Hartshorn, Dimmick St. - Discussed political signs under the Borough Ordinance and wanted to know how long they could stay up and when they had to be removed. There was one still up on Cypress Street and wanted to know whose property it was up there. *A discussion took place regarding signs. Larry Hartshorn said there is ten signs on a building on Line Street and said he would be none were paid for. He would make a complaint after the first of the year.*

Frank Galli, Kossuth St. - Inquired on the status of the 48 acres and wanted to know if it was in limbo or would revert back to the state, wanted to know if Catherino Drive would ever be opened because the motion had been previously passed, and wanted to know the protocol for the closing of the civic center when it snowed. He thought it should be open for the children of the town. He then thanked Mr. Chrzan and Mr. Mellody for their service as council members and wished Susan Shortz and Cindy Blanchard good luck.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine Morrell, Administrator/Secretary

Minutes by Christina Sullivan, Asst. Secretary