

**Minutes
Throop Borough Council
Monthly Meeting
Monday, February 24, 2003
7:00 p.m.**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members Of Council:

Anthony Chrzan - P

James Barnick - P

Vice President- Thomas Lukasewicz - A

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 - P

Administrator/Secretary - Elaine Morrell - P

Council comments and discussion:

Barnick started a discussion regarding the landfill payment due and then motions to be added to printed agenda.

Announcements:

Audience comments on tonight's agenda:

1. Motion by Marushock

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To accept the zoning report, landfill inspectors reports and the minutes of the January 9th, January 27th and February 13th Council Meetings and the transcript from the October 24, 2002 Public Hearing regarding the opening of Ash St. West Extension.

All in favor

Motion carried

TREASURER’S REPORTS:

Lenore Dolan, Treasurer read the treasurer’s reports and the totals of the paid and unpaid monthly bills.

2. Motion by Lukasewicz

Seconded by Barone

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

Unpaid bills:	\$41,996.10
Paid bills:	11,057.70
Grand total	\$53,053.80

Keystone Landfill Credit	\$5,500.97
Home Program (As of 02/14/03)	10,405.14
Revenue Report	\$66,822.28

Dolan: Checkbook balance 02/24/03

\$704,909.47

On the question:

Marushock: In regards to the items for payment for the month of Feb., 2003, I will be voting against the elected officials’ portion of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield bill, against the \$6,250. for the Scartelli Law Firm, and against the \$846.00 for Gannett Fleming, and I will be abstaining due to a possible conflict of interest for the Tom Hesser Ford (bill). That’s it.

Barnick: I’ll be voting against the insurance portion (elected officials). *A discussion took place with regard to Atty. Doug Blazey’s invoices.*

All in favor except as noted by Marushock, Barnick
check the abstain note listed above

Motion carried

3. **Motion by Barone** **Seconded by Lukasewicz**
 To pay all the employees of Throop Borough.

All in favor **Motion carried**

4. **Motion by Barone** **Seconded by Menichetti**
 To accept the correspondence as read or posted.

All in favor **Motion carried**

ADMINISTRATOR'S FINANCIAL REPORTS:

5. **Motion by Menichetti** **Seconded by Lukasewicz**
 To accept the Fund Statement, Budgeted Revenue & Expense Statement and Loan for January, 2003.

General Fund Checking Account	\$697,837.55
General Fund Petty Cash	200.00
Payroll Checking Account	5,964.07
Civic Center Account	250.00
Civic Center Petty Cash	250.00
FNCB Escrow Acct. Throop vs. Gould	200,134.25
Sunny Day Fund CD's	2,274,016.93
Home Program State Grant	10,405.14
Civic Center After School Program	500.00
South Valley Ave. Grant	62,869.66
Warsaw Playground	28,153.07
Liquid Fuels Account	67,651.27
Fund Statement Grand Total:	\$3,348,231.94

LOAN: Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc. (\$700,000.00 payment due annually- April 1 st)	\$2,100,000.00
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All in favor

Motion carried

6. Motion by Lukasewicz

Seconded by Barnick

To approve Scranton Craftsmen's Change Order # 3 for the S. Valley Ave. project as per Penn Dot's requirements and the approval of Fred Spott, Borough Engineer, and Louis Cimini, Solicitor. (Total increase \$23,725.00).

Six in favor - Barnick, Lukasewicz, Marushock, Menichetti, Barone, Mellody
One abstain - Chrzan

Motion carried

7. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Barnick

To approve Scranton Craftsmen's Applications for Payment # 5: Local Funding-\$2,223.00 and EPA Funding-\$19,129.50.

On the question:

Lukasewicz: Was this approved by Attorney Cimini and the engineer? Is this the one that I asked to have checked?

Morrell: This is the one that the Change Order was approved. The Change Order coincided with this billing.

Lukasewicz: Wasn't there something that... *Cimini, Lukasewicz speaking at once, inaudible.*

Morrell: Yeah, for Louie to check the change over with the bill.

Six in favor - Barnick, Lukasewicz, Marushock, Menichetti, Barone, Mellody
One abstain - Chrzan

Motion carried

8. Motion by Marushock

Seconded by Menichetti

To approve the payment in the amount of \$3,531.00 to Volpe Insurance for the workers compensation premium that is due March 6th.

All in favor

Motion carried

9. **Motion by Lukasewicz** **Seconded by Barone**

To replenish Civic Center Petty Cash in the amount of \$199.89.

All in favor

Motion carried

10. **Motion by Barone** **Seconded by Marushock**

To reimburse Danielle Trowbridge \$25. 00 for the CPR/First Aid course.

All in favor

Motion carried

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

To donate \$200.00 to the Humane Society of Lackawanna County.

All in favor

Motion carried

12. **Motion by Marushock** **Seconded by Lukasewicz**

To appoint Tricia Menichetti as a civic center monitor/assistant group supervisor at a rate of \$7.00 per hour pending/providing all the proper clearances are obtained.

On the question:

Barnick: What's going on here? Why do we need more? How many do we have over there (employees)? We're like a job service in Northeast Pennsylvania.

Marushock: This was discussed at the work session.

Barnick: I understand that but I'd like to hear some more about it.

Marushock: Well, it was in your packet.

Barnick: Why is there another person being hired over there? Why? *Few speaking at once.* We have a list of names.

Menichetti: There's one person, Joe Caputo, on the list. He's the only one that's not working over there. And from what I understand, we have three girls out now with pregnancy, this other fellow, I forget his name, Danielle something, is leaving.

Barnick: So what is he saying, to remove them?

Marushock: We're not increasing any hours. This is just....

Barnick: And you have more insurances and more unemployment taxes and more social security and all this other stuff.

Menichetti: The center is open 90 hours.

Barnick: More to cover on worker's comp.

Marushock: We're not increasing the hours.

Barnick: You're increasing the amount of people here.

Marushock: Yes, we are but we're keeping the hours.. *Both speaking at once, inaudible.*

Barnick: If I didn't know (better?) she's adding extra to the payroll just to get the names in. What's going on here? It's like a job service in Pennsylvania.

Menichetti: When you have it open 90 hours you have to staff it.

Chrzan: There's three people pregnant. I'd like to know what's going on over there.

Menichetti: Well, I don't know what.

Chrzan: Are they working or what are they doing?

Few speaking at once, inaudible.

Menichetti:What are you going to tell her, she can't have it?

Lukasewicz: Maria is off.

Chrzan: Why a supervisor? Don't you think there's other people that are working there for years?

Lukasewicz: Tony, I believe that's just a group supervisor. That's a title that they have to have in order to work down in the day care program.

Morrell: That's correct.

Lukasewicz: This girl, I believe, would be to help downstairs and you've got to be a certain age and have certain qualifications in order to, a certain title.

Morrell: That is correct. That's was the title that was required if you were needed downstairs.

Few speaking at once, inaudible. A discussion took place.

Barnick: You're hiring another one besides that one?

Lukasewicz: They need help down there, yes.

Barone: Well, they lost two girls over there and they're going to lose another one.

Chrzan: But there's three pregnant ones. What going on? *Few speaking at once.* What happens when the all come back? Then what do we do? Like the police over there. You hired a bunch of part timers. Nobody got laid off. They asked for full timers, we put two on and nobody got laid off.

Everyone speaking at once, a discussion taking place.

Four in favor - Lukasewicz, Marushock, Menichetti, Mellody

Two against - Chrzan, Barnick, Barone

Motion carried

13. Motion by Lukasewicz

Seconded by Marushock

To accept the correspondence from Lou Cimini, Solicitor, in regards to the discussion with Louis DeNaples from Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc., allowing Throop Borough to make quarterly payments; a first payment of \$175,000 by April 1, 2003 and two quarterly payments in lieu of the total payment of \$700,000 that was originally due on April 1, 2003.

On the question:

Barnick: I understand, hey, great, it's a short term fix but I don't think it's a long term fix for the problems associated with the financial problems we have in this borough. Secondly, I'm not in favor of having to owe somebody for doing a favor for us and it's going to be thrown in your face.

Menichetti: We lost money. It's not favor, we have to pay it back. We lost money.

Barnick: I understand that but find a way to pay it. You should have worried about it last year *inaudible*, complaining about everything. You give a .65 cent raise and you're doing all this other stuff.

Menichetti: You're the one that voted, it was .65 cents.

Everyone speaking at once. A long discussion took place with regard to the borough's finances.

Dolan: Pay \$175,000 by April 1. Then taking money out of your 2nd and 3rd Qs. We take 10% of that for the Sunny Day. Do I pay that first and then take the 10%? Or do I take 10% of the face value first? Response was face value.

A work session would be set up to discuss future projects and how they could/would be funded.

Five in favor - Lukasewicz, Marushock, Menichetti, Barone, Mellody

Two against - Chrzan, Barnick

Motion carried

15. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

The direct the DPW to start removal of some of the ice throughout the borough.

All in favor

Motion carried

Barnick discussed the time running out for the suspension on the Ordinance for establishing the sidewalks down at Tiffany Estates and asked council what was going to happen.

16. Motion by

To authorize a notary public for the Borough of Throop

THE TAPE WAS CHANGED HERE.

Motion withdraw?

17. Motion by Barone

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To have Jamie Shevchik perform the maintenance at the Washington Street Park at the same rate as the prior year.

On the question:

Marushock: As I asked before is this something that our DPW could do? *Few answered they could not.* Marushock continued: I believe they could.

Menichetti: Why is it that he doesn't do the work? His father does.

Barone: No, he does too.

Menichetti: I've never seen him do that work, never saw him down there.

Chrzan: His father helps him. He doesn't charge for it.

Few speaking at once.

Barone: You going to get the DPW to go down at night or on weekends and pay them double time.

Marushock: We hire part time summer help.

Barone: *The DPW works five days a week. They quit at 5:00 p.m.*

Everyone speaking at once.

Menichetti: *I mean, we're complaining about hiring people.*

Lukasewicz: I know but the field is beautiful. When they do it the way they do it, it's done and we never get any complaints.

Menichetti: I call the question, Mr. Chairman.

Four in favor - Chrzan, Barnick, Lukasewicz, Barone,

Three against - Marushock, Menichetti, Mellody

Motion carried

A discussion took place with regard to discharge and pickup at the Day Care Center on Simpson Street and it was decided to have Attorney Cimini look into the matter and contact the center.

18. Motion by Barone

Seconded by Menichetti

To develop an Ordinance to put Simpson Street back to no parking on the even side like it was, from George Street to Dunmore Street, (by Ordinance).

On the question:

Barnick: It's supposed to be an Ordinance so I won't be voting for it.

Barone: That was already passed, remember? They changed it back.

Morrell: But it goes back, you have to go through the same process again. I would imagine.

Barone: You have to do it by Ordinance again? Well, do it by Ordinance then.

Three in favor - Barnick, Menichetti, Barone

Three against - Lukasewicz, Marushock, Mellody

One abstain - Chrzan

Tie Vote

Mayor in favor

Motion carried

Jim Barnick would like to change his vote.

Motion by

To change his vote.

Lukasewicz: In the meantime I'd like to make a motion:

To authorize Attorney Cimini do whatever legally to contact them and tell them if it's not rectified in a short period of time we're going to legally we could do to

Menichetti: Well, they'll rectify it for a month and then it'll be right back to the way it was.

Lukasewicz: Yeah, but at least you'll have a paper trail that they've agreed to rectify it and if they don't rectify it or keep abiding by it, they shut them down. *Everyone speaking at once.*

Mellody: Elaine, roll call:

To allow Mr. Barnick to change his vote on the previous motion.

Five in favor - Barnick, Lukasewicz, Marushock, Barone

Two against - Chrzan, Menichetti

Motion carried

(Back to above motion)

Lukasewicz: What I'd like to do is make a motion:

Motion by Lukasewicz

Seconded by Barnick

To address (direct) Atty. Cimini to contact the *inaudible (LSDHA???)* tomorrow and tell them we're having severe problems with congestion problems while their vehicles are discharging and whatever there and that they have to rectify the problem *inaudible* or the borough will do whatever is necessary **to shut them down.**

Barnick: Or they have to restrict parking, whatever.

Compliance within 10 or 15 days and to stay in compliance and to let them know they'll be monitored by the police department and as soon as they're not in compliance we're not going to give them a second chance. I want to be as stern as stern can be.

Cimini has to research the whole problem to see what we can do. A discussion took place.

All in favor

Motion carried

Audience Comments:

Hartshorn - You guys are talking about putting a temporary bandaid on that money that you're paying off. What are you going to do next year? If you run into another problem are you going to do the same thing over again?

Lukasewicz: Larry, that's why I was trying to have Atty. Cimini contact Mr. DeNaples to see if instead of paying him April 1, pay him Sept. 1 or whatever. So this way we would get 2-3 checks ahead of time, put the money away and have it for so that we don't run into the same problem.

Marushock: Well, really right now it's a cash flow problem. We don't have to the money to....

Hartshorn: Well, let me ask you this. Why are we in this problem?

Lukasewicz: Basically because we've always spent a little bit in certain areas and because we have two overruns with Keystone Landfill, no we didn't generate as much revenue at the Keystone Landfill and we spent a lot of money on Marjol. We spent like \$600,000 that we didn't anticipate. We spent \$300,000. and we got \$300,000 less in so we had this shortfall. The monies are there to do things but we just have to, what's the term you use Daryl?

Menichetti: Cash flow problem.

Lukasewicz: Cash flow problem. I like that word.

Hartshorn: Yeah, cash flow problem.

Lukasewicz: That means your wallet's empty half the time but you still got to get it somewhere.

Hartshorn: You overspent, I can't understand this and it just keeps on happening. Supposing this dump closes down? Where do we go then?

Barnick: We probably wouldn't (or would?) have to pay the loan, I know that.

Lukasewicz: If the dump closes down we'd have some major problems. There would be major problems if that dump closed down.

Hartshorn: What would happens to your taxpayers then?

Lukasewicz: Well, I believe you get about 85% of your revenue comes from that landfill. So you could just speculate what would happen if you had 85% less monies coming into the borough.

Hartshorn: Then what you're telling me now is if paying your bills that our taxes are going to go up.

Lukasewicz: No, what I'm telling you is that we should only grow as much as we can afford with the money that we anticipate from the landfill. If we grow too much and the money don't come in from the landfill, we're going to be in a problem every year.

Hartshorn: This is what I'm trying to say.

Lukasewicz: So what I'm trying to say is we can only grow as a certain amount and we've got to see what is a major thing that would be cost effective to this borough in the future.

Barnick: Health insurance.

Lukasewicz: And we have to start looking at things.

Barnick: Employees hired.

Lukasewicz: But I mean major projects and we have to see what's really cost effective for the long haul and that's the only thing we could really do.

Hartshorn: You've been saying the monies went different places yet you people sat up there and voted yourselves insurance rates at a cost to the borough of x amount of dollars, nice dollars....

Lukasewicz: Right.

Hartshorn: I mean, where are you people working for the taxpayers in this town?

Lukasewicz: Where're we working for the taxpayers in this town?

Hartshorn: Yeah, I mean....

Lukasewicz: Legally, we can accept insurance coverage.

Hartshorn: Tommy....

Lukasewicz: And Larry, I have no problem taking the coverage right now because this is my tenth year that I've sat here and you know what? That's one quarter of my life, Larry, and if I need a little bit of Blue Cross and Blue Shield to get me through some times, I feel like I'm, I'm.....

Hartshorn: Tommy, if this place was hurting like you say up there, then....

Lukasewicz: The place isn't hurting, Larry. You didn't hear what I said. *Few speaking at once.*

Hartshorn: You said you were sitting there for ten years, you.....

Lukasewicz: No. I said I spent ten years here. Legally, I can take it and legally I can take what the government says I can take. And legally, I believe, four people sitting here on council that do take.

Hartshorn: I'm not saying that it's illegal for you to take it. What I'm saying is you were elected by the people to be put up there....

Lukasewicz: That's right.

Hartshorn: ...to try and help them.

Lukasewicz: That's right.

Hartshorn: You're not helping them by giving you, yourself a raise.

Lukasewicz: No, see what you're looking at, a different way.

Hartshorn: No, I'm not looking at it....

Lukasewicz: I'm not hurting, Larry, I'm not hurting the people either because when I'm here I'm trying to do things in a such a way that I could save every which place I could save. I'm doing what I'm doing.... Let me ask you a question, Larry. If you ran for council and you got elected and you got on here, would you take Blue Cross and Blue Shield if you had the opportunity?

Hartshorn: No.

Lukasewicz: Okay, that's....

Hartshorn: No.

Lukasewicz: I don't see a problem with me taking Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Hartshorn: I do. I see the problem with your taxpayers when you're trying to save some money. You're looking for a place to pay a borrow money to pay a bill off here yet you're helping yourself and not the people that put you where you're at.

Lukasewicz: That's the way you look at it.

Hartshorn: That's the way I look at it.

Lukasewicz: You look at it one way and I look at it a different way.

Hartshorn: Now, Mr. Barone has an idea if you're going to go out and borrow the money, go out and borrow enough to get yourselves straightened out here 'cause you're in deep trouble.

Lukasewicz: No, we're not in deep trouble.

Hartshorn: Yes, you are.

Lukasewicz: The borough is not in deep trouble.

Hartshorn: What do you mean it's not in deep trouble?

Lukasewicz: How is this borough in deep trouble? We've got beautiful parks.

Barnick: You are in deep trouble.

Lukasewicz: The sewer systems have been updated probably better than any town in Northeastern Pennsylvania.....

Hartshorn: Where?

Lukasewicz:in the last several years.

Hartshorn: Where? Where, Tommy? Throughout the borough?

Morrell: The Boulevard.

Lukasewicz: Throughout this borough we've been updating sewers and storms and sewers. We've done more work than probably Lackawanna County as a whole.

Morrell: 3.5 million dollars....

Lukasewicz: Yeah.

Morrell: ...for the Boulevard Project that had to be paid for.

Lukasewicz: We've come up with a lot of money to spend for the betterment of this town.

Morrell: We borrowed this money for.....

Few speaking at once, inaudible.

Lukasewicz: The monies have been spent well.

Hartshorn: Are you going to look into opening up the rest of the town?

Mellody: As we can afford to do more, as we can afford it.

Hartshorn: You better start finding out how you're going to be able to afford it, that's one thing. You better start thinking of the taxpayers and not yourselves up there.

Motion by Chrzan Seconded by Barone

To adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine Morrell, Administrator/Secretary

Minutes by Christina Sullivan, Asst. Secretary