



**Minutes  
Throop Borough Council  
Re-organization Meeting  
Monday, January 7, 2002**

Mayor Stanley Lukowski presided over the meeting.

**Roll Call:**

Mayor Stanley Lukowski-P

Joseph Barone-P

James Barnick-P

Anthony Chrzan-P

Thomas Lukasewicz-P

George Marushock-P

Daryl Menichetti-P

Solicitor Louis Cimini-P

**Announcements:**

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

Mayor-Certificates of Election have been presented to the Borough Administrator, Elaine Morrell, and all of our employees.

- Thursday, January 10, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. - Special Monthly Work Session followed by a Special Meeting for General Purposes.

Mayor-Before we go on, I want to thank Judge Pesota for his being here for us and especially to swear in our borough officials. Judge Pesota has a distinguished career, he's only been District Magistrate for two years but he's served for many, many years. He was valedictorian of Dickson City High School, he excelled in college and in legal school and he also was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Lieutenant Colonel, a rather high rank in the military as we know now, most people are becoming familiar with ranks of the Army, Navy and Air Force now that this thing with Osama bin Laden is going on in the world today.

Before we proceed, on Saturday (Jan. 5, 2002) at the St. Peter's Cathedral in Scranton, newly elected and re-elected officials were kind of honored there at that service. But the big thing about it is in their bulletin it said, it's true in every community really so to speak, in today's ever challenging times those who lead in service are very much in need of our prayers and our encouragement. We all stand grateful to them for their willingness to represent the best interests of our community. Please join them in assuring them of our continued prayers as they stride to respond to the best of their abilities and the needs of our community. And now across America this is the same thing, it holds true all over. It sometimes is a thankless job but it's a responsible job, particularly in Throop where we have the problems with Marjol and other issues that they solve, it's not easy. Sometimes pressure cracks all the way through. Follow their words of encouragement that the fears in their bulletin and at the service.



Council President Lukasewicz now presided over the meeting.

**5. Motion by Chrzan**

**Seconded by Marushock**

To adopt Throop Borough Resolution # 3 of 2002 a resolution naming the following as authorized signatures on all borough accounts and certificates of deposit; President, Treasurer, Administrator/Secretary and to authorize the Vice President to sign in the absence of any of the three. Three signatures are required. All accounts and certificates of deposit to date are deposited in the First National Community Bank, Dunmore.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**6. Motion by Barone**

**Seconded by Chrzan**

To advertise to hold the Regular Monthly Council Meeting on the last Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. and the Regular Monthly Work Session on the Thursday preceding the last Monday at 7:00 p.m. and to hold a Special General Purpose Work Session followed by a Special General Purpose Meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Meetings and work sessions are held in Council Chambers, Throop Municipal Building, 436 Sanderson St., Throop, PA. 18512.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**7. Motion by Chrzan**

**Seconded by Marushock**

To reopen and amend Throop Borough's Budget for 2002 as per Section 1311 of the Borough Code.

On the question:

Barnick-There's not that many to open it back up and give it a re-working, not amend it. Amend it will be at the end of it.

Lukasewicz-Well, let's make the motion to open and amend.

Barnick-That's got to be adopted by February 15<sup>th</sup>, right?

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

Lukasewicz-At this time that concludes the written agenda. Does any council have any motions they would like to bring forward this evening?

Barone-I'd like to make a motion, I think you better hire a second assistant to help her across the street.

Lukasewicz-I believe that at our Thursday Work Session we'll have Gail come in and make a recommendation to us and we'll decide it if she's got some names in mind there.

Barone-Because I think Maria, she's the most competent out of all of them over there.

Chrzan-Make the motion.

Barnick-All right, make the motion.

Barone-I'd like to make that motion now because...

Chrzan-I'll second it.  
Barone-.....they're going to be hurting.  
(Few spoke at once, inaudible.)

**8. Motion by Barone**

**Seconded by Chrzan**

To make Maria Pesavento the other Assistant for the Director over there (Throop Civic Center, same salary as previous assistant director, within 30 hours limit).

Lukasewicz-Maria Pesavento?

Barone-Because she's got the knowledge to do it.

Chrzan-I'll second it.

Marushock-Did we have any discussion on this?

Lukasewicz-As assistant only, as Assistant Director, and that would be at the same salary for within those 30 hours as (inaudible).

Barone-Yeah.

Chrzan-I'll second it.

On the question:

Marushock-Wouldn't it be possible we could advertise this and let other people in town be aware of this opening and perhaps open the door to other people who may be interested in that?

Lukasewicz-My understanding of it is that there are two or three individuals over there that have been working there for a long period time and there are people who are filling at the spur of the moment as an Assistant Director. I mean, at this time it's probably in the best interest of the programs to not hinder anything, to hire from within would probably be the best way to handle it at this time, but that's my own, my opinion.

Menichetti-Has this been discussed with our Director?

Lukasewicz-I have discussed with the Director the need for an Assistant Director.

Menichetti-Well, we need an Assistant but (inaudible) I have no idea who this person is.

Lukasewicz-And she has related to me that she's in the process of reviewing a couple of standards over there and there are two or three that she has reviewed to be comfortable with either one of them.

Menichetti-(Response inaudible.)

Lukasewicz-This, this would work.

Menichetti-Because I don't know this person.

Lukasewicz-Yeah. No, this would work. Yeah, but I think we should go over across the street to have a chance to meet this person and discuss this.....

Barnick-I call the question.

Chrzan-What question.

Lukasewicz-(Inaudible) and hopefully you can understand what I was trying to say so.....

Morrell-I have a question on the motion. Is that a second assistant, is that what you said?

Lukasewicz-Yes.

Morrell-Okay, that's all.

Lukasewicz-And we still have two different assistant directors that would work within 30 hours.

Morrell-The second one just fills in the gap on the, needed additional to make the 30.

Lukasewicz-Yeah and she would still work as a monitor and regular hours.

**Four in favor-Barone, Barnick, Chrzan, Lukasewicz**  
**Two against-Marushock, Mellody**  
**One Abstain-Menichetti, Doesn't know**  
**this person at all.** **Motion carried**

**Audience Comments:**

**Andrew Hegedus, Sr., 417 George Street-Mr. Lukasewicz?**

Lukasewicz-Yes.

Hegedus-There's a sign ordinance in this town, isn't there?

Lukasewicz-Is there a sign ordinance in this town? I believe there are sign ordinances in the town.

Hegedus-Well, I'll tell you for sure. I've paid for three of them and there's a sign coming into Throop on Mr. Dolan's property? Like, it's a joke already, it's been up there so long. Has that sign been paid for? If not, why don't that come down? That's crazy, that sign. It's a disgrace to the people that are on it. I think you should make a motion to have it taken down. First I'd have them pay the fee which is quite large. It's two a square foot.

Menichetti-I agree, the election is over. There's no need to have to have a political sign up.

Hegedus-No, it's a disgrace.

Menichetti-Yes, it should be taken down.

Hegedus-Right.

Menichetti-Or he should have to pay the fines.

Hegedus-Yeah, if it's going to be up pay for it.

Menichetti-Whatever it is, it's going to end up (inaudible), absolutely, it should be gone.

Lukasewicz-Okay, would someone like to.....

Chrzan-Inaudible.

Lukasewicz-Wait, wait, wait, wait.

Menichetti-If it's on Mr. Dolan's property, if it's PennDOT's.....

(Lukasewicz banged the gavel for order.)

Lukasewicz-All right, before we even start here. I'm going to orderly conduct a meeting and I know this is going to be one of the most difficult sessions that we're going to have coming up because we're so divided and I'm not going to allow comments that are degrading from either side, from anyone. You just can't do that. We're elected, responsible government officials that should act in a manner acceptable for being here and if you want to act like children, there's not much I can do and I'm not going to try to belittle you for acting like children or whatever but if I go to put you out of order and throw you out, the same thing that happens when an individual was taken out of here several years ago, they could sue the borough and God knows what happens. So I can just wish that we'll have a police officer in here at all times because basically I'm not going to make the call to put someone out because I don't want to jeopardize the Borough, but if someone is out of order I'm going to request that the police officer make his opinion of it if the individual is out of order and he if thinks the individual is order, then he should escort the individual out of here. In addition to this, *what I'm going to ask from Attorney Cimini is to prepare for me some type of guidelines that are legally bound of what I can and cannot do to conduct this meeting accordingly.* I don't want to jeopardize the borough by putting someone out of here but if I'm within my right legally Mr. Cimini, I want to know it.

Cimini-Okay.

Lukasewicz-All right? Now, getting back to the signs that Mr. Hegedus brought up. If someone would like to make a motion to have the zoning officer look into that sign(age) to find out if it indeed it has to have a fee or if it is a political sign or whatever it is, I think we can discuss that situation and *have Attorney Cimini come up with a solution that it can be addressed by Thursday's meeting.* If someone wants to make that motion I'd like to see that at this time.  
Marushock-I'll make that motion:

**9. Motion by Marushock**

**Seconded by Menichetti**

To have our Zoning Officer and Atty. Cimini look into the status of the sign and that the proper action be taken.

Lukasewicz-Are you agreeable that Attorney Cimini coordinate this with our Zoning Officer?

Marushock-Yes, sir.

Lukasewicz-Is there a second?

Chrzan-Tommy, why do you need a motion? Why don't you just tell the Zoning Officer to check it? Making motions for everything now?

Lukasewicz-I would not have a problem with a motion against the sign....

Chrzan-Here we go.

Lukasewicz-Because this sign is very belittling to the entire town for a long....

Chrzan-It's a political sign, Tommy.

Lukasewicz-Well, the motion's open. Is there a second?

On the question:

Barnick-I don't think the sign is belittling at all. I think it speaks the truth. They raised the taxes. They raised the taxes 23% in this town. It tells the truth, period. It's not about election, it tells who raised your taxes. If you or anyone of us on council raised taxes? Come on, you'd be cut right down, right down to the knees.

Menichetti-The motion is not whether the sign is truthful or not, the motion is (inaudible), the sign is there and it's been there for a long time.

Chrzan-Thanks to the board they're up again next year.

Lukasewicz-Tony, could you please let her finish?

Chrzan-All right.

Lukasewicz-Let her finish.

Menichetti-(Inaudible) should be removed simply because it is offensive to a lot of the people on there. I mean all right, the election is over, point made, now we go on and (inaudible) sign should be removed.

Barnick-I have a question. If it's offensive to the candidates, that's too bad, they ran for office. Too bad.

Menichetti-I call the question.

Lukasewicz-Okay, the question has been called, roll call, please. (Council comments on roll call)

*Barone-I'm against. I think if you just ask Jack Dolan he'll probably just do it.*

*Barnick-I agree with Joe, I'm against.*

**Four in favor-Marushock, Mellody, Menichetti, Lukasewicz**

**Three against-Barone, Barnick, Chrzan Motion carried**

Lukasewicz-Does any other council have anything else they'd like to bring forward? I should have asked for audience comments on that prior to the vote. Is there anybody, so it's a little late that I didn't ask for audience comments but I'm going to turn it over to the audience for comments on the motion that was just voted on.

Barnick-One point I've got to make here first (inaudible) do it on this side, do it on any sign in this town (inaudible) someone thinks it's offensive, just remember that. On every sign that you might think it's offensive whether you think it's offensive or I think it's offensive, they think it's offensive or not, just remember you've got to do it for every one of them.

Chrzan-And another thing, taxes are going up next year again at the school and there's going to be another sign going up there even if they have to get a permit or not, there's another sign going up. And people know.....

Lukasewicz-The main thing is let the zoning officer and the let the solicitor address.....

Chrzan-Why did you have to pass a motion, Tommy?

Lukasewicz-.....this problem, see what we could do to.....Why? Because it will be done.

Chrzan-Because it will be done? In other words the zoning officer knows or you're going to tell him?

Lukasewicz-I don't tell the zoning officer what to do.

Chrzan-You're supposed to, you're the president.

Lukasewicz-No, I'm not the president, I'm one of seven council members. We're a body of seven.

Chrzan-In other words, you don't want to be involved.

Lukasewicz-We're a body of seven.

Chrzan-That's right.

**Andy Hegedus, 303 George St**-I have a question, I mean when you're finished I have another question.

Lukasewicz-Go ahead, Andy, what else?

Hegedus-My kind of question is, I have a business down at 303 George Street, there was a special meeting here in March. It was brought up by a few councilman about this court (street) and I was allowed to use the court. That was officially allowed and I've been trying to work with the Mayor about getting a sign up there that so much parking from the court, especially now with the snow down it's kind of dangerous coming out of that court. It's the exit of the court. I think with some of the people that live in the court plus other people, I've called the borough many a times (inaudible) to tell him about it but the Mayor, the Chief and I and everybody discussed this for quite a while. It's been going on since March but it seems that no signs have ever been put up and no enforcement. The word I got from the Police Department is that they will not enforce any rules unless there's a sign. I don't blame them there but I mean there's other signs that have been put up here and I haven't seen no ordinance (inaudible) and I think that this should be brought up to the council in the future that there's not an accident there. I just want to go on record that if we don't enforce something there's going to be an accident. Because I have a lot of customers coming out of that thing. Can these people just sign for a petition about it? I can get you the names, but it's a lousy situation there. I mean, it's at the bottom of a hill there where you can't really see coming out and large vehicles have been blocking the way and there's (inaudible, coughing heard) the police department, well I know it's kind of hard for them to enforce a rule when there's no sign up there. I think the signs were put up for an hour, they lasted for an hour when they were put there in December. I think you're aware of that, Mr. Lukasewicz.

Lukasewicz-I am and was aware of that, yes.

Hegedus-Yeah, well, I mean I've been a businessman in the town 26 years. I've tried to work with the council constantly, I've paid all my signs that I had to pay. I've paid my dues for my signs but there's many a sign in this town that hasn't been paid for. That don't bother me as much as the people that are getting away with it, I think if the zoning officer was here I'd like to see who paid for some signs around here. There's hundreds of signs in Throop, large ones, small ones, medium size. That's why I got into the issue of that sign, that sign's been up there along time. Nobody's ever said anything or ever paid for it. It's either got to come down or (inaudible), that's the way I look at it. Thank you very much.

**Frank Galli, 609 Kossuth Street**-Getting back to this, I'm sorry, the Ordinance that you just, council had to approve regarding the signs. What is, what are you trying to do here? Any sign that's, how long, what are....

Lukasewicz-Frank, what was done is there, a discussion ensued about a particular sign that has been up for a long period of time and there's questions of what type of sign it is, if there was a fee paid for putting up, and what the legality of it is. So the motion that passed this evening is very simple. All it was is to authorize Mr. Kalinoski and Mr. Cimini to review that sign and make a recommendation to council in regards to that sign.

Galli-Well any sign that becomes, like Mr. Barnick says may find offensive or degrading as a citizen....

Lukasewicz-That wasn't the motion. The motion was to find out what type of sign it is and to see if a fee was paid for it. It's not to determine if that's an offensive sign or whatever. Once the investigation ensues then it will determine what type of sign it is, Frank, and at that point then that might be a question....

Galli-So any kind, like I said, any kind of sign that's been put up, any kind of sign in this borough, if it's not taken down within a certain, is there going to be a fee placed on top of political signs or anything like that?

Lukasewicz-I just thought it was always common courtesy. I'm not sure if there is an ordinance or anything, any amount on the books but if you do put up a political sign or whatever, usually you take them down.....

Galli-.....years ago that I've seen this, the election a few years ago I've seen signs.....

Barnick-Actually, I had DPW take one down on Sanderson Street.

Lukasewicz-Yeah, usually they took them down within a reasonable amount of time or it can probably fall under the nuisance ordinance. So Attorney Cimini and Mr. Kalinoski will review this one and come up with the inside for us.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine Morrell, Administrator/Secretary

Minutes by Christina Sullivan, Assistant Secretary

