

**Minutes
Throop Borough Council
Special Monthly Meeting
for General Purposes
Thursday, June 13, 2002
following the 6:30 p.m. work session**

**There was a moment of silence in memory of Gino Merli, Peckville,
Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members Of Council:

Joseph Barone - **P**

James Barnick - **P**

Anthony Chrzan - **P**

President-Thomas Lukasewicz - **P**

George Marushock - **A**

Jim Mellody Jr. - **P**

Vice President-Daryl Menichetti - **P**

Mayor - Stanley Lukowski - **P**

Solicitor - Attorney Louis Cimini - **P**

Treasurer - Lenore Dolan - **P**

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

Announcements:

An Executive Session was held Tuesday, June 11th at 6:00 p.m. with Attorney Richard Goldberg in regards to the police contract negotiations.

An Executive Session was held this evening, Thursday, June 13, for personnel and the Short Street Project.

Lukasewicz: We'll begin with audience comments on tonight's agenda. We have the one motion, I believe. Jimmy, you going to put on another motion?

Barnick: Yeah, there's two of them.

Lukasewicz: Elaine, there's two other motions.

Morrell: One is, **to have the police department video recorder removed from the Chief's office and placed in the Administrator's office and, also: To request to increase the Host Municipality Fee from the state.**

Barnick: **To pass a resolution requesting that they raise the Host Municipality Fee in conjunction with that and then put in all that other good stuff.**

Menichetti: It was brought to my attention that when we did Gail's (Gail Ercoli, Civic Center Director) benefits that we discussed her vacation time that she would be allowed vacation time after one year but then when I checked, I understand from Elaine that the employee's get their vacation time after six months. So I think we have to go in accordance with that. *Morrell: Yeah.*

Menichetti: And we should keep it in accordance with that.

Lukasewicz: So you want to put a motion on to give her (Gail Ercoli, Civic Center Director) vacation time.....

Menichetti: Vacation time, effective....

Lukasewicz: Immediately.

Audience comments on tonight's agenda: None

1. Motion by Barone

Seconded by Chrzan

To award the bid for the Short Street Storm & Sanitary Sewer Project to the most responsible bidder, Scranton Craftsmen, Inc., in the amount of \$228,724.40.

All in favor

Motion carried

The following motion failed, as follows:

2. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To have the Police Department video recorder moved from the chief's office into the administrator's office, centrally located with the others, with tapes being changed at the same time.

Barnick: Centrally located with the others and changed at the same time as the other one.

On the question:

Barone: If you're going to put it in her office, what happens when the police are investigating a drug suspect or something.

Chrzan: Then it's different, then she turns it over to the police. *Barone: Yeah, but she could still see it, right?* Chrzan: Well, what's the big deal, she's the administrator. *Barone: Well, she's not supposed to see it.* Chrzan: Well, tell the chief to tell her not look at it. *Few speaking at once.*

Lukasewicz: Anybody that goes in that office can see it then, Joe.

Menichetti: Yeah, it's going to be visible for everybody.....
 Lukasewicz: Everybody and anybody that's in.....
 Chrzan: Nobody has access to it though, right Elaine? *Barone: I'd say that.....* Chrzan: Elaine's responsible. *Morrell: I'm responsible for changing the tape, but.*
 Barone:get those camera's and set them right or if they're moved they *inaudible*...
 Chrzan: That's right. *Barone:something like that, I don't know.* Chrzan: We trust Elaine.
 Lukasewicz: All right, roll call.
 Barnick: I think they should, I, well if I've *inaudible*, I think the cameras should be marked. If they're moved, you know they were tampered with.
 Barone: That I would vote for. *Menichetti: Yeah, well, but I.....*
 Chrzan: Yeah, but they were tampered with before, nothing was done.
 Barnick: I know, but we passed that thing that says they would automatically be terminated, anybody tampers with the camera.
 Barone: Well, if they tamper with them and we find out then.....
Everyone speaking at once.
 Barnick: They're supposed to protect the borough from liability against the borough, for any....
 Morrell: Yeah, but anybody can go in *inaudible* and look at it.
 Barnick: That's why always, our cameras.....
 Menichetti: What was the reason for putting it in Neil's office to begin with? *Barnick: Security..*
 Barone: So nobody else can get access to it. *Barnick: And to ensure that.....*
 Menichetti: So now we're going to take it out of there and put it in Elaine's office that's more open and more..... *Few speaking at once.*
 Chrzan: Elaine, can't you put it in the closet or something and lock it and just change it once a week?

Barnick: I mean, I've never seen one, I don't think I've seen a video yet, to tell you the truth.
Few speaking at once. Lukasewicz: All right, let's have a roll call on it.

Barnick: Has anybody looked at the videos?

Lukasewicz: A yes is to have it moved and no is to have it stay in the chief's office. Roll call.

Barone: No, I'm against it because I, when the police are investigating, I want it there. If something goes wrong, I could understand setting the cameras and if they're moved, they're moved but uh.....

Chrzan: Joe, we just had an incident where's there's nothing on the tape. *Barone: Well....*

Chrzan: Come on. *Few speaking at once.*

Two In favor-Barnick, Chrzan

Four Against: Barone, as noted,

Mellody, Menichetti, Lukasewicz

Motion Failed

Lukasewicz: Motion #3.....

Barnick: Now, what are you going to do about it?

Chrzan: What are we going to do about the camera, Tommy?

Lukasewicz: The camera's going to stay where it is and..... *Barnick speaking, inaudible.*

Lukasewicz continued: There's an investigation going on from within the police department. When it is addressed by the D.A.'s office, then we'll do what we have to at that time. To this point in time.....*few speaking at once, inaudible.* Lukasewicz: Everything is just suspect at this

point of time and I would refrain from any more discussion on it in the open public.

Barnick: I'm just saying for the future.

Chrzan: Because Tommy, it's the second incident now. We've got to do something. *Barone:*

And Neil was the only one that.... Chrzan: It's the second incident. *Barone: Is Neil the only one who has a key to that room?* Chrzan: I don't know. *Barone: Mayor?*

Mayor: To what room? *Barone: His office, where the camera is the thing.* Mayor: Oh. No.

Barnick: I see them all going in there. Mayor: He's not the only one. *Barnick: They all go in there.* Barone: Well, then.... *Mayor: No.* Barone: Well, then he should be the only one in there if that's.....*inaudible, few speaking at once,* he'd be responsible. *Morrell: He has the video, he has the thing locked so nobody can get into it.* Mayor: Yeah, he's the only one. *Everybody speaking at once.*

Lukasewicz: The video is secure, Elaine said it's locked and the Chief is the only one that's....*inaudible.* *Morrell: He has the tape, the video, locked.*

Chrzan: Well, what good is it? There's nothing on this incident. Come on, now. *Barone: Well, if something happens in there then....* Chrzan: Why wasn't the tape working?

Barone: *Inaudible.....recorded then, he's going to be responsible.*

Lukasewicz: It's only suspect at this time what or not is on the tape because no one knows. Did you review the tape? *Chrzan inaudible.* Lukasewicz continued: No. Did you review the tape? We're only taking hearsay of what..... don't it discuss it no more right now.

Barnick: What, you don't trust the chief? *Lukasewicz: I trust the chief.* Barnick and Chrzan: It's only hearsay. *Lukasewicz: Motion #3.* Barnick: Everything is hearsay.

Chrzan: Oh, Tommy.....

Morrell: I don't know a resolution number, but to pass a resolution requesting the state to raise the host municipality fee. Do you want a dollar? *Inaudible speaking in background.*

Barnick:....*inaudible....* in conjunction with their proposed *inaudible* trash fees.

3. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To pass Resolution #11 of 2002, requesting the state to raise the host municipality fee in conjunction with their proposed increase in state fees.

On the question:

Barone: Wait a minute, explain that to me again. Now, if the state is going after to raise the host municipality....

The tape was changed here and started:

Lukasewicz: Also give more of a fee to the host municipality for all landfills.

Barnick: But they don't have to negotiate that extra fee.

Barone: Well, I don't know, you know, it's okay if you want to go after more money but we got a lot because what he's giving this town right now, if he doubles, let's say he doubles his funding. We get paid, right? We get paid double. But if you keep picking, what's to stop him from cutting *inaudible.* Where are we going to go then?

Lukasewicz: No one's picking on the Keystone Landfill.

Barnick: Nobody's picking on Keystone. We're asking for all the landfills.....

Lukasewicz:question the state to do it and uniformly throughout the state for all landfills.

Barone: *Well, the state's doing that, right?* Lukasewicz: Yeah, this isn't..... Barone:*nothing to do with us.* Lukasewicz: We're making a request that they check into the possibility of doing this in conjunction with the other thing they have on *inaudible.* Barone: *Well, if the state's doing this, going after all the landfills, what do we have to push it for?* Morrell: To get a fair share. To increase..... Barone: *Well, if it passes you're going to get your fair share.* Barnick: No.

Morrell: No, they're not planning on increasing anything to the municipalities. It's all going to the state. *Few speaking at once, inaudible.*

Barnick: For every landfill it hasn't been raised since 1988.

Morrell: Right. It's been one dollar and look at.....

Unknown: The budget is 1.2 billion dollars.

Barnick: And what *inaudible*..... 41 million of it or was it created?

Barone: I just don't want, if you're going to go after this, I don't want to affect the contract we have right now.

Barnick: It can't, no, actually it coincides with the contract because if it's raised it has to be paid extra. and that would put revenue in your contract, *inaudible.*

All in favor

Motion carried

Lukasewicz: Then I believe there's a motion to have Gail's..... *Menichetti: Vacation time effective immediately.* Lukasewicz: The Civic Center Director.

4. Motion by Menichetti

Seconded by Chrzan

To amend the Civic Center Director's, Gail Ercoli's, vacation time effective immediately. (One week after six months, two weeks after one year.)

Barone: What's that for?

Lukasewicz: To have the Civic Center Director's vacation time be effective immediately.

All in favor

Motion carried

Lukasewicz: Are there any other motions at this time?

Barnick: Yeah, yeah, well, not a motion but I want to know what's going on with the light up there? Barone: *With the what?* Barnick: The light that was supposed to be changed months ago.

Lukasewicz: The standard's there and everything is there and I have no idea why it's not being done.

Barnick: Why? Why, because of PennDOT holding us up? What's going on? Morrell: *That, I can't answer.* Barnick: This is months. Morrell: *I don't know.* Barnick: Months, it's, I, it's been sitting there.

Lukasewicz: *Inaudible*... I know that, I

Barnick: This was done in an emergency. *Lukasewicz: Right.* Barnick: And...

Lukasewicz: Elaine, can you find out tomorrow for sure.....

Barnick: And if it's PennDOT, I'm sure it's got to be related to my phone call to the secretary.

Lukasewicz: And if indeed it is PennDOT, let all the council members know and we could make some calls directly....*inaudible*..... put some pressure on.....

Barnick: And I understand that South Valley Avenue? They come back with a bunch of, exactly what I told the secretary. #&@! comments, back to the borough and now they've got to resubmit it again for *inaudible* sidewalks.

Lukasewicz: Them bids will be opened when? *Morrell: The 24th.* Lukasewicz: 24th the bids will be opened.....

Barnick: Yeah, right, but we still don't have the PennDOT permit.

Lukasewicz: I understand that but the bids are coming back in again. So we'll know exactly....

Barnick:but PennDOT, PennDOT's the ones that are *inaudible*.

Lukasewicz: We'll know exactly where we stand and then as soon as the permits are secured that project could be started.

Barnick: Where are we at with George Street? Anything going on with George Street?

Lukasewicz: The turn back of George Street? Barnick: Yeah.

Lukasewicz: No, not that I'm aware of. I know there's been survey crews out from the state. I've seen them several times within the last few weeks, Jimmy, they're checking all the *inaudible* and this and that and the elevations in regards to our request. So I would assume that we'll be receiving some information shortly.

Barnick: And I know John made a, I can't remember *inaudible, coughing heard*, the Boulevard. All the punch list items that need to be done.

Lukasewicz: I believe you were addressing that.....

Cimini: Yeah, they were going to..... *inaudible*.

Barnick:bid this out or do whatever we got to get it finished.'

Cimini: Well, it's in the hands of the surety. The lawyer from Baltimore is coming up to meet with me and go on the site because they spoke to Leeward and Leeward said the job was completed 100%.

Barnick and Cimini inaudible.

Cimini: I faxed back to him the list that John sent to me.

Barnick: And he just can't give us the advice to just bid it out and then....

Cimini: He has to come up and see it himself.

Barnick: And what does a lawyer know about construction?

Cimini: Nothing.

Barnick: You know what I'm saying? He's got to come up and look at something he doesn't know nothing about.

Cimini: I know, we'll have John there too.

Goreschak: Tommy, is the borough going to take over George Street?

Barnick: That's what we're trying to do.

Goreschak: What do you have to do?

Lukasewicz: Bette, we're waiting for some correspondence back from the state. We met with the

state and we told them what we wanted in regards to it and they're doing some surveying and other testing to make an evaluation of if it's even feasible if they're going to give it back to us and what would have to be done to bring it up to specs of what we would want *inaudible*.

Goreschak: When did you have contact with them?

Lukasewicz: We had contact with them, it was several months ago, and as I just said there have been some individuals out there in the last week or two doing detailed work of what needs to be done. So I would assume that something would be coming shortly.

Goreschak: I think it would be to our advantage to take it over. *Lukasewicz: All right.*

Barnick: But the call I made to the secretary, getting back to that little bit. You know, I asked him when I talked to him, I says you know I *inaudible* delay *inaudible* I says, with a bunch of comments, okay, but if you can throw something in there, you know, we're eagerly awaiting our permit from PennDOT to get some work done, anytime, you know and I hope it's not in conjunction with that phone call.

Barone: Yeah, I got a motion I want to make. It's about the cops. The grant is out. If we get a grant for three years the federal government will pay for the school. They'll pay 100% and after that we have to pick it up and I think if they worked with the school, I think they will make up some of the payment, we won't have to pay the whole thing. And the monitors up there, they can't arrest nobody. If there's a problem they have to call the police anyway. And the kids are working better with the police today and the police could keep them, something about *inaudible* while he's up there. I think it's a good idea and I think we should go for it.

Chrzan: Not if we have to pick up the tab.

Lukasewicz: You want to put a motion on then to that effect? *Barone: Yes.*

Everyone speaking at once, inaudible.

Lukasewicz: There's a motion, a motion to apply for the grant which the deadline is tomorrow?

Barone: It has to be in by 4:00 (p.m.) tomorrow.

Lukasewicz: To have COPS in the School is the name of the program?

Barone: I guess, I don't know. Is that what you call it, Stanley? *Mayor: Pardon?*

Barone: SRO Program, isn't it?

Lukasewicz: SRO Program. Is there a second? *Menichetti: I'll second it.*

The following motion failed, as follows:

5. Motion by Barone

Seconded by Menichetti

To apply for the SRO Program, COPS in School.

On the question:

Barnick: I think you're just over budget and..... *Everyone speaking at once, inaudible.*

Lukasewicz: If you get this grant then you have to keep that after that base..... *Few speaking at inaudible.*

Barnick: And you have to keep that individual. *Everyone speaking at once, again.*

Chrzan: ...Blue Cross and everything else, too.

Menichetti: I thought somebody said you could apply for it but you don't have to accept it if you get it. Are we..... *Everyone speaking at once.*

Barone: Well, if you apply for it and then you don't accept it.....*inaudible...* the next time.

Chrzan: Why isn't the school in here to go for it, Joe?

Barone: Well, Crotti called up. He was talking to that Christine down at the D.A.'s office and from what I gather it sounds like he's for it. Even if the school pays half of it. Go after Olyphant and Dickson, see if they'll pay.

Chrzan: The school's not going to pay half, Joe, I'm telling you right now. *Everyone speaking at once.*

Barone: Vote on it, that's all. I don't want to hear no crap *inaudible* that we're having a problem with the police in the school either.

Lukasewicz: We'll vote on applying for the grant.

Two in favor: Barone, Menichetti

Four against: Barnick, Chrzan, Melody, Lukasewicz Motion Failed

Barone: I don't want to hear no more trouble with kids and cops.

Chrzan: Joe, that's not our problem.

Barone: Yes, it is. If the cops don't do their job then it's our job to do it.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine Morrell, Administrator/Secretary

Minutes by Christina Sullivan, Assistant Secretary