

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

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. - **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**

Announcement: Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

An Executive session was held after the announcement in regards to potential litigation involving the Miesko property, 514 Edgar Street.

Robert Tropiak, 182 Phillips Street - Addressed council regarding an existing water runoff problem from 184 Phillips Street from underneath the driveway (underground water, source unknown). There is a discharge of water creating an icy condition in the winter. The DPW has been called constantly to put salt on it in the past. Mr. Tropiak discussed dealing with the runoff situation for ten years, the last year being the most difficult for him in having to break up the ice. *The borough engineer would be requested to evaluate the situation for a possible remedy.*

Audience comments on tonight’s agenda:

Eric Hartshorn, 140 Dimmick St. - In reference to Motion #9, questioned the if the money allocated to the basketball referees was generated from the civic center or the borough and if it

included the referees for the adult basketball programs also. *Borough revenue is used for the program, money generated from 80-90 players at a fee of \$30 each and an admission fee into the games. The program is for the children of Throop. In the past it was handled by the Booster Club and the borough took responsibility for the program.*

1. Motion by Marushock

Seconded by Barone

To accept the zoning report, landfill inspector's reports and the minutes of the October 21, October 27 and November 13, 2003 Council Meetings.

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 Barnick

Seconded by Barone

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

Unpaid bills: "Items for Payment"	\$48,720.29
Paid bills:	12,199.04
Grand total	\$60,919.33

Keystone Landfill Credit	\$8,959.32
Revenue Report	\$41,123.07

On the question:

Marushock: In regards to the items for payment for the month of Nov., 2003, I will be voting against the elected officials portion of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield bill.

Dolan: There's no elected officials in there for the items for payment. It's all borough (employees). There's no elected officials in the Blue Cross this month.

Morrell: It was paid in advance so it's paid up to date.

Marushock: Against the solicitor's fee of \$6,250 for this month and I need to abstain on the Tom Hesser Ford (bill) due to a possible conflict of interest. That's it for this month.

All in favor, Marushock, except as noted

Motion carried

3. Motion by Mellody

Seconded by Barnick

To pay all the employees of Throop Borough.

On the question:

Marushock: I will voting against the treasurer’s salary of \$1,000 per month. Lenore, I don’t know if I’m correct in this, was the fee paid for the maintenance of the Washington Street ballfield this month or is that done?

Dolan: That’s finished.

Morrell: That was done the end of October.

Marushock: Okay. Well, I’m just against the one salary.

All in favor, Marushock, except as noted

Motion carried

4. Motion by Mellody

Seconded by Marushock

To accept the correspondence as read or posted.

All in favor

Motion carried

ADMINISTRATOR’S FINANCIAL REPORTS:

5. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Mellody

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

General Fund Checking Account	\$301,527.67
General Fund Petty Cash	200.00
Payroll Checking Account	8,179.88
Tax Escrow Account	1,791.67
Civic Center Account	250.00
Civic Center Petty Cash	250.00
FNCB Escrow Acct. Throop vs. Gould	202,264.62
Sunny Day Fund CD’s	2,533,772.05

Capital Projects Account	1,552,937.64
Civic Center After School Program	500.00
South Valley Ave. Grant	24,869.88
Warsaw Playground	28,452.74
Liquid Fuels Account	135,023.70
Fund Statement Grand Total:	4,790,019.85
(Interest Free) LOAN Balance: Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc. (Payment in the amount of \$262,500.00 will be paid in October 2003.)	Balance \$1,400,000.00
FNCB - LOAN (Plus interest)	\$1,550,000.00

All in favor

Motion carried

6. Motion by Marushock

Seconded by Mellody

To authorize the final lease payment in the amount of \$17,849.11 Paccar Financial for the 2000 Peterbilt Dump Truck.

All in favor

Motion carried

7. Motion by Mellody

Seconded by Marushock

To authorize payment in the amount of \$8,218.00 to Frederick C. Spott & Associates for professional services rendered from October 5, 2003 to November 14, 2003.

All in favor

Motion carried

8. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Marushock

To transfer \$24,000.00 from South Valley Ave. Project Account to the General Fund.
(Payments were made through the General Fund.)

All in favor

Motion carried

9. Motion by Marushock

Seconded by Barone

To allocate \$2,000.00 to Gail Ercoli, CC Director, for the Basketball Referees. A check for \$1,000.00 will be issued now and the balance when needed.

On the question:

Marushock: Is this going to be done by vouchers again? *Elaine stated it would be.*

Lukasewicz: I would assume it would be done the same way it has been in the past.

All in favor

Motion carried

10. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Marushock

To authorize the demolition of the condemned property at 514 Edgar St. to the lowest bidder, Chorba Demolition, in the amount of \$3,000.00. (This does not include extermination or asbestos abatement.) To authorize personnel if necessary, including part time police officers, to work along with the demolition.

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

One against - Mellody

Motion carried

11. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Marushock

To amend the following motion that was passed at the October 27, 2003 meeting: *To authorize payment in the amount of \$14,074.75 including retainage to American Asphalt or the 1999 Paving Project as per the recommendations of the Borough Engineer and Street Commissioner.*

To amend the amount to \$16,380.45 as per the recommendations of the Borough Engineer, Frederick C. Spott & Assoc., Inc., and the Street Commissioner, Robert Kalinoski.

All in favor

Motion carried

12. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Barone

To adopt the 2004 Proposed Budget and Liquid Fuels Budget and to advertise for public inspection.

On the question:

Marushock: Line places to make changes, hopefully.

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

One against - Marushock

Motion carried

13. Motion by Barnick **Seconded by Marushock**

To order a new police vehicle with a three year lease and extended warranty through state bidding.

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

14. Motion by Barnick **Seconded by Marushock**

To appoint Robert Kalinoski and Charles (Chuck) Kroptavich to make application to DEP's State Board for Certification of Water and Wastewater Systems Operators under the grand parented operator certification of Throop Borough's satellite wastewater collection system.

All in favor Motion carried

15. Motion by Marushock **Seconded by Mellody**

To authorize salt storage at PennDOT's facility under the Agility Program at \$1.00 per ton, plus the operator's rate for loading the trucks. (An operator is at the shed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

All in favor Motion carried

Official Comments:

The Mayor discussed beautification in various communities and didn't think Throop should frown on it. When it is brought up it's like it a sin and wanted to know why that was. He then raised the issue of Leeward with regard to the Boulevard Project and expressed that the job was finished three years ago but complaints are still being heard.

Menichetti suggested the possibility of a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony which would be something for the borough for Christmas.

Audience Comments:

Kathy Budzinski, Charles Street - Offered thanks to council for taking action on the condemned property at Edgar Street.

John Snell, 340 Sanderson St. - In agreement with the issue of the mayor's views on beautification, discussed the same building as at the last meeting. last meeting, He stated he thought the building should be brought up to code, didn't care what the problem was, it was an eyesore right in the middle of our town, it looked terrible. *Lukasewicz indicated the situation was legally being researched. If there were no deficiencies i.e., roof or siding falling apart, broken windows or no safety hazards, it is difficult to tell someone what to do with their property on the basis of an opinion, a property being an eyesore. Kalinoski discussed code violations in detail.*

Larry Hartshorn, 140 Dimmick Street - Discussed abandoned vehicles and what happens regarding zoning if the vehicle is not removed, i.e., you'll pay a \$300 fine, we're going to put you in jail). He didn't think it was right and said that it is happening. There's only certain people being 'nailed' and if it was going to be done, he thought the zoning office should go to everybody in the town, not just certain people. He did not understand how if the vehicle was on private property with a title and paid for, that someone could tell you to get it out of there. If it was on his property how could it be abandoned? *A question and answer period took place with regards to abandoned vehicles.*

David Repchick, Edgar St. - For the residents of Edgar Street and personally, he commended council for taking action on the condemned property. He was in the property with Officer Reed and saw the horrendous condition of the structure.

16. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Marushock

To place a lien against the property at Edgar Street with regard to any and all fees incurred.

All in favor

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine Morrell, Administrator/Secretary

Minutes by Christina Sullivan, Assistant Secretary