

Minutes  
Throop Borough Council  
Monday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Monthly Work Session/Meeting 6:30 p.m.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

*“God Bless Our Troops and the Coalition”*

**ROLL CALL:**

**Members of Council:**

John Musewicz - P

James Barnick - P

Richard Kucharski-**President - P**

Charlene Tomasovitch - P

Wayne Williams - P

Vince Tanana - P

Bob Magliocchi, **Vice President - P**

**Solicitor** - Louis A. Cimini - P

**Mayor** - Joe Tropiak - P

Assistant Treasurer - Lenore Dolan - P

Secretary - Renee O’Malley - P

Chief Clerk/Treasurer -Robin Galli - P

**Throop Borough wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season**

**Announcements:**

\* The Municipal Building will be closed on Friday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, Monday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas and on Friday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and Monday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 in observance of New Years

**Kucharski thanked John Musewicz for his 12 years of loyalty to the Borough.**

**Holiday Garbage Collection:**

**Christmas Eve (Fri. Dec. 22, 2017): Garbage/Recycling Collection** - Normal Wednesday garbage collection is changed to the preceding Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017; Normal Thursday collection is changed to the preceding Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2017; Normal Friday collection is changed to the preceding Thursday, Dec. 21, 2017. Recycling in the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> wards will be collected on the preceding Monday, Dec. 18, 2017.



3. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Musewicz**

To pay all the employees of Throop Borough.

**All in favor except Tomasovitch abstained on husband and Kucharski on Granddaughter** **Motion carried**

4. **Motion by Musewicz** **Seconded by Tanana**

To accept the correspondence as read or posted.

**All in favor** **Motion carried**

5. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Musewicz**

To accept the Fund Statement, Budgeted Revenue & Expense Statement as of **Nov. 30th, 2017** as posted and/or printed on the agenda.

<b>Fund Balances:</b>	
General Fund Checking Account - FNCB	<b>\$70,606.03</b>
General Fund Performance Money Market - FNCB	<b>\$893,821.48</b>
Civic Center Account-FNCB	<b>\$1,092.82</b>
General Fund Petty Cash	<b>\$300.00</b>
Payroll Checking Account-FNCB	<b>\$24,056.37</b>
Sunny Day Fund MMKT CK Acct-FNCB	<b>\$3,559,504.03</b>
Sunny Day Fund CD's	<b>\$4,233,636.42</b>
Liquid Fuels Account - FNCB	<b>\$433,074.79</b>
<b>Fund Statement Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$9,216,091.94</b>

**All in favor** **Motion carried**

**6. Motion by Tanana Seconded by Musewicz**

To advertise Ordinance #1 of 2018, an ordinance re-enacting a tax on assessed valuation.

**All in favor Motion carried**

**7. Motion by Musewicz Seconded by Tanana**

To pay the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter allotments to the Emergency Services for the Borough of Throop. \$5,906.25 each to all Hose Companies (Hose Co #1, #2 and Volunteers #3) and \$1,500.00 to Dickson City Ambulance.

**All in favor Motion carried**

**8. Motion by Tanana Seconded by Musewicz**

To advertise the Re-organization meeting for Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018 and the 2018 Borough Work Sessions/Meetings. The Council Work Session/Meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Monday of the month. The work sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. meetings will follow. Any re-scheduling will be advertised. Cancellations will be posted. Meetings are held in council chambers. The following Monday meetings; May 27<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> will be held the Tuesday following due to holidays. There will be one meeting in December on Monday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**All in favor Motion carried**

**9. Motion by Williams Seconded by Musewicz**

To authorize payment # 1 in the amount of \$49,953.60 to Richard Mellow Corp for the Civic Center Generator Project.

**All in favor Motion carried**

**10. Motion by Musewicz** **Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To allow Mary Ruth Tanner to carry over unused sick time as in the past.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**11. Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Musewicz**

To donate \$200.00 to the Senior Elite and Over 55 for their Christmas Party.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**12. Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Williams**

To accept Jerry Barone's letter of resignation dated Dec. 1, 2017, resigning from the position of Throop Borough Assistant Fire Chief.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**13. Motion by Musewicz** **Seconded by Tanana**

To authorize payment in the amount for \$400.00 to the Mid Valley Basketball League for entry fees for 6 teams.

On the question:

Barnick questioned why we are paying for this.

Kucharski: We've always paid for it. We have 6 biddy basketball teams at the civic center and the fee as they mentioned in the letter is \$80/team to enroll and they gave us an \$80 discount so it came to \$400.00.

Barnick: Well are we going to start paying for everybody's teams?

Magliocchi: Pretty much. Well I said that last year but when we donate to the booster club and the well the little league didn't come up for their money this year but it's not towards registration fee but originally I wanted to front the registration fees for all the kids but we're doing it here so I know they have always done this is in the past so I just look at we have to try to be consistent for all the Throop kids that's all.

All talking at once.

Magliocchi: I thought it was all Throop kids to be honest with you.

Galli: Jim the Civic center has 6 teams that they put in this league and it's \$80/team.  
 Barnick: I know that.  
 Kucharski: So there are more than 6 teams?  
 Musewicz: Absolutely.  
 Tomasovitch: These are just the Throop teams.  
 Musewicz: These are just Mary Ruth's teams  
 Magliocchi: So these teams don't have sign up fees than?  
 Tomasovitch: Yes they do. I had to pay one for my granddaughter.  
 Magliocchi: But Throop kids don't pay right?  
 O'Malley: If Dickson or Olyphant comes to play on a team it is \$35 for them to register. Throop is free.  
 Kucharski: And that's what this fee takes care of?  
 Musewicz: Enrollment to get into the league.  
 Magliocchi: If they are getting \$35 from the other kids than  
 Barnick: Yay why  
 Musewicz: The \$35 goes to the Civic Center - registration fees.  
 Magliocchi: So the civic center gets that money so technically even though we are paying for it the registration is paying it anyway because it is money coming in and then going out.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**14. Motion by Musewicz**

**Seconded by Tanana**

To adopt the 2018 Proposed General Fund and Liquid Fuels Budgets.

On the question:

Barnick: I don't feel that we have a need for a Borough Manager. I believe that is Councils position and I think it's a waste of tax payer dollars so.

**6 in favor, Barnick against**

**Motion carried**

**15. Motion by Tanana**

**Seconded by Williams**

To hire Reilly and Associates as the Borough Engineer effective January 1, 2018 on all new projects.

Kucharski questioned if saying all new projects is sufficient or do we want to say something about BCM actually agreeing to any outstanding projects?

Attorney Cimini: That's up to council. I think we should first contact BCM and let them know whatever the vote turns out to be and than we're going to have to reach some mutual

understanding. They may say they don't want to continue.  
Kucharski: Ok so at this point the wording in the motion is sufficient?  
Attorney Cimini: Yes. I'll talk to Zack tomorrow.  
Kucharski: Ok.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**16. Motion by Tomasovitch**

**Seconded by Tanana**

To authorize Robert Kalinoski to do a traffic and engineering study on Edgar Street from Copernick St. to Charles St. to restrict parking on one side.

Discussion took place on location of traffic study.

Hegedus: Copernick to Charles because you have a problem on the 500 block, you have a problem on the 600 block.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**17. Motion by Williams**

**Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To advertise for an EMA Coordinator.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

Discussion on TruGreen discount. Save 3% if pay ahead.

**18. Motion by Musewicz**

**Seconded by Williams**

To approve payment in full to TruGreen for the 2018 lawn care of the Borough Parks, Borough Building and Civic Center.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**19. Motion by Magliocchi**

**Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To transfer the full time Assistant Director at the Civic Center to a part time monitor as needed at the monitor pay rate.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**20. Motion by Magliocchi**

**Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To hire Danielle Jones as a part time Civic Center child care provider/monitor at the prevailing rate.

On the question:

Barnick questioned if she lives in Throop.

Magliocchi: Not that I know of.

Kucharski: I believe it is Lake Ariel.

Magliocchi: I don't know, Mary Ruth met with her. Seems ok. Can't always judge a book by it's cover but you have to start somewhere. If it works out it does and if not than like everyone else

Kucharski: Wayne's comments a few weeks ago is that historically we've interviewed for these positions. For whatever it's worth I just bring that up.

Magliocchi: I know Mary Ruth met with her so I don't know unless Council wants to get involved.

Kucharski: Well again Wayne, Mary Ruth and Char did previous

Magliocchi: I ok with that. I just know that she needs help. If you guys want to interview it doesn't matter to me.

Barnick: I'd just like to see someone from Throop.

Magliocchi: I don't know why.

Kucharski: The thing is, is that we aren't getting any applications.

O'Malley: I don't think anyone applied from Throop.

All talking at once.

Magliocchi: She is begging for people.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**21. Motion by Magliocchi**

**Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To appoint Louis Cimini to Throop Borough Manager pursuant to Ordinance #6 of 2004 at a salary of \$50,000.00 without medical benefits starting January 1, 2018.

Attorney Cimini: I am going to say this, I am actually, I think I am going to leave and let you discuss this if this is something you want to entertain. Obviously the audience needs to be involved and most specifically Mr. Chorba needs to be involved. It's a serious position. The Borough Code allows for a 2 year employment contract, if I was fortunate enough to be the borough manager I would not ask for an employment contract. It would be month to month. But this is something I think if I'm here - I think you need to have an open and honest discussion ---- this is something you want it would be in addition to being the solicitor. Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs is fine with that I know because I heard from Shelley Houlk but on a different issue but this is something you discuss. If it is something you want fine if not that's fine too. I sat here for 17 years proud to be your solicitor I'll be equally proud to be your Borough Manager but that is at the pleasure of Council. I understand that Jim is against it and you know maybe the rest of you are too but that's something you need to discuss amongst yourselves, open and honest discussion and like I said please entertain Mr. Chorba's position and comments.

Magliocchi: One thing I definitely will add, I'll voice my opinion quick and than you guys can say what you'd like. I've been in the Borough for 2 years now. Our management is lack majorly. It is a 6 million dollar business like Rich says but I think I have been actively involved as much as possible in the borough for the last 2 years overseeing everything trying to be involved in the police department, civic center, DPW and one thing I can tell you is it is major lack of management. We've had executives, we've had everything but it's hard to us to do a day to day operation when we only meet twice a month. It is not a full time job for us to be here everyday making sure that everyone else is doing their job so you can only hope you can find the right person that could fill that position and get the most out of the department heads where right now I believe we lack in a lot of positions where we can make out from the borough manager beneficially and financially for the borough. That's my outlook at it.

Denise Brown, Phillips St.: We have spent money in the past looking at this, the Borough Manager. I am just a little confused as to why now you just want to appoint somebody and not advertise.

Kucharski: Well it was kind of a ---- attempt. We engaged with DeHey McAndrew the consultant and than council decided to pull that back.

Brown: Right and you lost that money *inaudible*

Kucharski: What we were looking at than was to probably to hire a borough manager with a salary in the neighborhood of \$80,000-\$90,000 which is typical for what is happening around here.

Magliocchi: Well mainly like 100 I think some of them are.

Kucharski: Well 80 to 100. I mean in this situation we are saving, Louie makes \$50,000 as the solicitor and

Brown: So you would be paying him \$100,000.00.

Kucharski: Right so we are actually saving money in the long run.

Brown: Well my question is why are you looking to appoint somebody instead of advertising?

Magliocchi: Because he has been here for 15 years. He knows basically everything that is going

on. The biggest thing like Rich just said is to try him would be the perfect candidate for the borough. He knows the borough the best more than really anybody he knows the borough better than us. With that being said we are paying him \$50,000 for the borough manager position where anybody else we are going to start around 90,000 so plus benefits. There is no benefits with this one and me financially

Brown: That is to start right? He said he is going to work month to month?

Magliocchi: He is not on a contract so in other words, basically the contract just says is we can't fire him for 2 years so let's say in 2-3 months he is not doing the job and we feel this position is not useful than we can terminate it at any time. I mean for us to just go out and like when we were going through that process let's just say we spend 90 grand on a borough manager now we are most likely going to be locked into a 2 year contract it may not work out. We don't know. They said they've tried in the past but I think the past was there was different council and they did it a different way where now there is all new council faces in here and I think everybody up here sort of has a different outlook of the borough today than it used to be.

Brown: What's the problems that we are actually having with the department heads that's worth \$50,000.00?

Magliocchi: Well I mean a lot of it is confidential but there is lack of management. It is hard for us - like any job you go to there is administration and then there is down. And unfortunately we meet twice a month and we have a 15 minute executive trying to straighten stuff out and let's face it, it doesn't. I'm talking about the same stuff 2 years later. So if we put somebody in that place to do that and stuff is being changed and stuff is moving forward than by all means it is well worth over that money. We have somebody to get grants now. He's here everyday he can write grants, he can go after money. If there is no progress than we don't need the position. It is a 50-50 on anything you do but right now the way it is doing is not working.

Brown: So instead of making the department heads responsible we're making the departments *inaudible*

Magliocchi: Well no we're only here

Kucharski: It's not only the department heads. Essentially, Bobby hit the nail on the head. I've said it, I was in management for 35 years, the first meeting I attended I said Wow. This is a 6 million dollar business. This is a business ladies and gentlemen and there is no running the show.

Barnick: It's councils job

Kucharski: It's not council's job to run the show. I'm sorry, I respect your opinion but I have to respectfully disagree. Councils job is to set policy and oversee that the policy is undertaken and you do that through your management. And in this case the managers need someone to put it all together. And to direct them and it's just not happening. And this is nothing against Robin or anybody else. It's not Robin's job. She doesn't supervise anyone. She's a member of the bargaining unit. I mean that's how it is.

Dolan: Will Mr. Cimini be allowed to make decisions without coming to Council?

Magliocchi: On a day to day operation. Not financially wise.

Dolan: I didn't mean financially. I meant operational.

Magliocchi: He is the boss.

Dolan: Ok.

Kucharski: I mean any new policy like I said Council sets the policy. Then we oversee it.

Magliocchi: We need somebody to enforce it.

Dolan: So you'll probably meet with him alone if there is any problems or anything like that.

Magliocchi: Well he's here. He's the borough manager. He's here everyday like most other

boroughs. He's not doing this from his office or anything. He's got his own office here at this borough and will be overseeing it everyday. Making sure that everyone is doing their job so that we don't have too anymore. To be honest with you half the time, and I have said this before, I don't even know why I sit in this seat. Jimmy you do say that council is in charge but we are really not. I have issues with a lot of stuff and nothing has changed in 2 years. They have been getting away with it. It's like why am I even in this position. I am in this position to make this town better but I'll be honest with you as of right now I don't even see this position worth anything right now because there is no progress moving this town forward with the management that we have right now as far as and I am not talking about department heads but moving forward getting progress putting policies in place and enforcing them. I can't do that and what I get told and what I've been told in the past is I'm only one vote. So when I have an issue with the borough and you say I am in charge but I'm told I am only one vote. So then what's the point? What's the point of Council. So in other words if you want to start getting stuff done and you say council is in charge - we need a meeting every night. This way day to day when we have issues we can fix it that night and that is impossible. I mean

Kucharski: That's not council's role.

Brown: What knowledge does Mr. Cimini bring to the table for knowing what these department heads are supposed to be doing?

Kucharski: 15 years of experience.

Brown: As an attorney right?

Kucharski: Working with the borough. *Inaudible* of what he has done he really acted like a borough manager. He's been involved in so many different things.

Tomasovitch: He's at every executive, he's at every meeting. He knows

Magliocchi: The reason why I would have to agree he is the best candidate right now is there is nobody more familiar with this borough than him. We can go out and find somebody, we can pay \$150,000 for somebody he can come in and have a power ego and destroy the borough.

Barnick: The last one we had sat there and read the phone book.

Magliocchi: Right but the last one was political. What I'm saying is he knows what we want fixed. So of all people if he can't do the job noone can. In my eyes because he knows. He's at every executive. He knows the issues in the borough. He knows what needs to be fixed. Now we're basically giving him the authority to fix them. I know Mike you are coming into it so I don't know how you feel your opinion would be

Mike Chorba: Have you talked to him about it? Like have you had a sidebar conversation with him? Is he ok with juggling a full time borough position with a full time law firm?

Magliocchi: He will not have the law firm anymore. He wants to be - if we offer him this - he is dedicated to the borough.

Tanana: He'll be our solicitor and our borough manager.

Magliocchi: He's full time here. If you want to talk to him come on up to his office and he is there.

Chorba: As long as he is capable and he is not overtaxing himself.

Magliocchi: Well no and that's exactly, and it's a big decision on his end. By all means. He's giving up a lot. He's a lawyer to begin with.

Tanana: That was one of the first questions we asked him.

Magliocchi: Financially it is costing us 50,000 where yay that is a bargain in reality because it should be costing us double that. We are getting 2 in one.

Tanana: And still paying a solicitor on top of that.

Magliocchi: No benefits. You hire somebody else and you're paying \$20,000 a year for benefits. So we are saving money right there.

Kucharski: He wants to participate in the pension.

Williams: Well he should.

Brown: One last question, will this be at the expense of any job loss?

Magliocchi: No.

Tanana: No. This is just to make it more efficient. Right now it is not operating at efficiency.

Magliocchi: When I first came in I would agree with Jim that it is councils job but when you realize the amount of stuff that goes on in this borough, I mean I know you guys come to every meeting which is great but you don't realize the day to day operation that everybody does and the involvement. I know just like stuff at the civic center, I spent a lot of time over there with projects and there is a lot going on in this borough. A lot more than people realize and I think it just needs that oversight management where you have someone to answer to. Let's just say I am in management and I'm like I have some issues or whatever and they want this done. I only see them twice a month so I'm not worried about it. Reality that can be the attitude. I'm not saying it is but you have noone to answer too everyday. You are your own boss you do what you want. There is no actual oversight on anybody and that's why I think the borough lacked for many years.

Brown: So the *inaudible* would have the ability to terminate the department head?

Magliocchi: Yes.

Brown: So you're now giving that to the Borough Manager?

Magliocchi: No.

Tomasovitch: No. He can't fire someone.

Magliocchi: If he recommends it he has to bring it to us and we are the ones that actually terminate. He can do the, I see what you are getting at that's why I said you get somebody from out of town, well I don't like anybody - we'll get rid of everybody. No they don't have that authority but at least now there are paper trails of, we knew, let's say one department had major issues, well we don't have anything. We meet twice a week, we are trying do paperwork, I mean twice a month, and we are trying to do paperwork, well we didn't do this, well that's not our job. So we need somebody to do that.

Kucharski: We need a lot more organization I mean first of all the majority of this place don't even have job descriptions. I mean what kind of evaluations are done? I've never done an evaluation.

Magliocchi: I mean pay raises if you look at the last budget, which I totally disagree but everybody gets the same across the board. So if you work everyday you work hard you're dedicated and the other person doesn't even care, you guys get the same raise.

Brown: I am a state employee I know what that feels like.

Dolan: You're 100% right.

Magliocchi: And that's why I'd like to do employee evaluations every year. Obviously not in the contract. Non union. There is a lot of stuff in this borough that can really be fixed like when you say you think 50,000 is a lot he gets *inaudible* it's like wow and then we give all these *inaudible* if you want to look at it different ways but in my opinion there is nobody better that knows the borough better and the issues that are going on right now than him. And that is the only reason that I would go that route.

Kucharski: Any other questions Denise?

Brown: No.

Kucharski: Anyone else?

Chorba: I think it is a step in the right direction. It will bring us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century here.

Kucharski: Throop is one of the only boroughs even in our population range that does not have a borough manager.

Tanana: There are boroughs smaller than us.

Magliocchi: Look at our budget compared to the average borough. I mean we're double. There is a lot of money that comes through here.

Kucharski: Alright so we had a motion we didn't have a second.

Tomasovitch: I'll second.

On the question:

Barnick: Not to say anything about Lou's performance but I think it is a complete waste of tax payers money.

Kucharski: I respect your opinion.

Musewicz: He has been a very positive force in the Borough for 17 years.

Tomasovitch: He's not going to take work away from Robin so

Musewicz: I think he will be a positive force for the next 17 if he is here. But I have to disagree that our management team is terrible. That part of it I don't

Magliocchi: Well we never said they were terrible.

Musewicz: That part of it I don't agree with but I think he'll be a positive influence in that role. But I totally disagree that our management team is a terrible team.

Kucharski: I don't think anybody meant that they're terrible they just need some direction.

Magliocchi: Nobody said they were terrible we said our management needs guidance.

Musewicz: Maybe I misunderstood.

**6 in favor, Barnick against**

**Motion carried**

There were no audience comments.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes by Renee O'Malley  
Borough Secretary