

**Minutes**  
**Throop Borough Council**  
**Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**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:**

Mike Chorba - P  
Richard Kucharski - President - P  
Charlene Tomasovitch - P  
Vince Tanana - P  
Wayne Williams - A  
Bob Magliocchi - **Vice President - P**  
**Solicitor/Borough Manager** - Louis A. Cimini - P  
**Mayor** - Joe Tropiak - P  
Assistant Treasurer - Lenore Dolan - P  
Secretary - Renee O’Malley - P  
Chief Clerk/Treasurer -Robin Galli - P

**Announcements:**

\* An executive session was held this evening at 6:15 p.m. to discuss personnel issues.

Kucharski: I also just want to note that I don’t know if anyone saw it in the paper last Wednesday I believe it was but Senator Blake procured a 1.8 million dollar grant for water and sewer issues and Throop was awarded a \$150,000 grant and it comes from the department DCED. We got \$150,000.00 towards the Pearl Street Sewer Project. I discussed it with Robbie and he said it is very timely because they had some issues down there this past summer so. Again we also received \$30,000.00 last year as a LSA grant so that money is also available for that project. A Lou we received something concerning the levees *Inaudible* if you could briefly report on that.  
Cimini: The FEMA Correspondence, We were working with FEMA on their flood maps and received correspondence, I think it is on the Borough website, that they are delaying issuing the letter of final determination based on information that we sent to them regarding Eddy Creek and *inaudible* flood elevation with Lackawanna River levee certification so it’s on hold right now.  
Kucharski: But it’s positive. We’re being given a chance to have our say.  
Cimini: Yes.

### **Work Session/Meetings:**

\* The Oct. mid month work session/meeting for Monday, Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

\* The Oct. monthly work session/meeting will be held on Monday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Audience comments on tonight's agenda:**

Andy Hegedus: #13. To authorize payment in the amount of \$18,877.21 to the Throop Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association. This is nearly \$4,000 less than last year that the State has awarded us. This is absolute crisis for us when it comes to the biggest issue that we have with the fire service and the death benefit policy. We will be upside down about \$5,000.00 on this with limited funds in the account so

Tomasovitch: I think that letter should be looked through, the death benefit. It should only be for the firemen.

Hegedus: Well they paid for the auxiliary on their own last year, for this year.

Kucharski asked who's they.

Hegedus: The Throop Hose Company #1. The officers of which there are 9 officers of the firemen relief association had a majority that said we will only pay for firefighters, active firefighters, and life time fire fighters. So they paid the difference because there is a different premium that, or excuse me a different policy benefit that they receive. They only get 2500 the firefighters get 5000 but we, it was nearly \$22,000, it was just about even, last year what we spent on the insurance for life insurance and this is a very disappointing number from the State here. It has just continuously gone down. It is probably good for the insurance companies in PA because that is where this tax is derived from. This is the *inaudible* fire tax of 4% that if you're homeowners company is from CA you pay a premium to your company. Their charging a 4% penalty is what they do. They try to get the insurance companies to be PA insurance companies

Kucharski: What would you like us to do?

Hegedus: Well I just want to advise you that it's, that's one of those issues that's haunting us in the Fire service here right now and that's, we are trying to square that away too for the remaining 12 lifetime members of Throop Hose Co #2 that Wayne is working on that we are working on bringing them into Volunteer Hose Co of Throop because we cannot provide those people with the death benefit if they don't belong to a fire company. So I think you all know the history that we are going to put them on as honorary members so that those people that served those older firefighters of which there are 12 it's not fair to them that the organization kind of collapsed down there so

Tomasovitch: Well do we have to go to the State? And ask for more money?

Hegedus: Well we won't get any more money because there is a formula that is like launching a man to the moon to do the calculations but where this really started to get eroded was about 3 or 4 years ago when they gave to the big cities, they gave to Philadelphia, they gave to Pittsburgh, they gave to career departments and it really eroded the base and, this is something, I don't know how it will ever be taken away from them now but these are the kind of things that the John Blakes of the world need to be working on to protect the volunteer fire service. All they do is talk about it has gone from 300,000 members down to 50,000 volunteer fire fighters in the state of PA today but yet they continue to take away and act as if nothing has happened. They gave it to the unions and that was never designed for that.

Magliocchi: So what's your request? Will this get us by or do you need money now or

Hegedus: No we'll need money next year. I am just making you aware of it because it is a concern. 20 years ago we had \$155,000.00 in the bank and we're a tenth of that right now and it's all been spent basically. There are some people that will say that it was on equipment and things like that but the majority Vince will tell you as a member of the relief for several years that the majority of it has been eroded on the life insurance policy.

Tomasovitch: Well we have to do something then.

Hegedus: It's going to be something that comes up

Kucharski: Can your organizations lobby the Senators? I would suggest that.

Hegedus: Yes. We've told them. They need to recalculate that or *inaudible* or something

Kucharski: Well that's not going to happen.

Hegedus: That's the piece that is frustrating is they are saying you can't get volunteers and you can't do that and now we are going to be put in a position maybe within 3 years that we may not be able to continue to provide the life insurance policy that we've been showing them and offering them for 20 years. I wanted to make you aware of it.

Galli added that she has the totals for #12.

Anthony Gangemi, Dunmore St.: If I could speak on #9 please.

Kucharski: Yes.

Gangemi: Good evening Council, Mayor and Solicitor and ladies. I've asked to be appointed to Council to replace Mr. Barnick's position. I think there is a letter in the packet from me so you can see I have 31 years of professional experience as a manager/superintendent and you know very well some of my stuff. At one point I had 120 people reporting to me, union, non union so I have some personnel experience. I had 8 years with Council. I think I can help the Council out. I still have a few connections here and there. I can promise you I have no nefarious or self-serving reasons for wanting to be on council or something that is going to help me along personally. I am interested and have time now to be on Council and would appreciate your vote. If you have any questions I would be happy to answer them.

Kucharski: Thank you.

**1. Motion by Tanana**

**Seconded by Chorba**

To accept the monthly zoning reports and the minutes of the August 20<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 council meetings.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer Reports:**

**2. Motion by Tanana**

**Seconded by Chorba**

To accept the treasurers' monthly reports as posted and to pay the monthly bills against the borough as posted and/or printed on the agenda.

Unpaid bills: "Items for Payment"	\$61,267.57
Paid bills:	\$170,078.51
General Fund Revenue Report (includes transfers from GF MMKT TO GF CK)	\$486,107.59
Civic Center Revenue Report	August - \$21,423.67 September - \$21,591.49

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**3. Motion by Tanana**

**Seconded by Chorba**

To pay all the employees of Throop Borough.

**All in favor except Tomasovitch  
abstained on husband & Kucharski  
on granddaughter**

**Motion carried**

**4. Motion by Tomasovitch**

**Seconded by Chorba**

To accept the correspondence as read or posted.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

5. Motion by Tanana

Seconded by Tomasovitch

To accept the Fund Statement, Budgeted Revenue & Expense Statement as of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 and/or printed on the agenda.

<b>Fund Balances:</b>	
General Fund Checking Account - FNCB	\$79,316.77
General Fund Performance Money Market - FNCB	\$1,116,948.19
Civic Center Account-FNC	\$2,882.14
General Fund Petty Cash	\$300.00
Payroll Checking Account-FNCB	\$15,748.72
Sunny Day Fund MMKT CK Acct-FNCB	\$3,929,481.79
Sunny Day Fund CD's	\$4,233,636.42
Liquid Fuels Account - FNCB	\$257,154.95
<b>Fund Statement Grand Total:</b>	<b>\$9,635,468.98</b>

All in favor

Motion carried

6. Motion by Tanana

Seconded by Chorba

To accept the financial requirements and minimum municipal obligation budget for 2019. The police pension plan in the amount of \$149,867.00 and the non uniform pension plan in the amount of \$229,794.00 as prepared by Duda Actuarial Consulting.

All in favor except Tomasovitch  
abstained on Non Uniform Pension

Motion carried

7. **Motion by Tomasovitch** **Seconded by Tanana**

To donate \$125.00 to the Lackawanna Historical Society.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

8. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To adopt Resolution # 12 of 2018, a resolution requesting a PA Gaming Local Share Account (LSA) Monroe County grant in the amount of \$700,000.00 from the Department of Community and Economic Development of the Commonwealth of PA to be used for the Washington Street Park Improvement Project.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

9. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Chorba**

To appoint by Resolution Anthony Gangemi to fill the council seat vacated by James Barnick Jr. for a term as per the Borough Code.

On the question:

Kucharski: Just to clarify I think your letter said for the total unexpired term, Lou do you want to explain the Borough Code.

Cimini: That's why I said that. It's whatever the Borough, I don't know if it's for the remainder of the term but we have to figure that out. It's for, it's to hold the office until the first Monday in January after the first Municipal election occurring more than 60 days after the vacancy at which election an eligible individual shall be elected in an office for the remainder of the term. So just as long as it is per the Borough Code we're fine.

Kucharski: And that seems to say that he will probably have to run next Spring and then he would serve the remainder of the year.

Tanana: The 3 plus a special 2 year seat I believe it is.

Magliocchi: He would finish this term and then it would be 2 years from then.

Tanana: Right.

Kucharski: We'll get that clarified.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

Kucharski Congratulated Tony Gangemi.  
The audience applauded.  
Mayor Tropiak swore Gangemi in.

Kucharski: All right then motion #10

To pay the 3rd quarter allotments to the Emergency Services for the Borough of Throop.

Tanana: I would like to change that motion to pay the 3rd quarter allotments to the Volunteer Hose Co. of Throop. Because pretty much #2 is non-existent and the one

Magliocchi: Is non-existent.

Kucharski: Well we have to change, I mean we said we allocated inaudible

Magliocchi: Last time we did \$100.00.

Tanana: Ok well we'll say

Magliocchi: So then we'll just, what's the quarterly allotment, we'll make a motion to

Kucharski: that was going to just be a standing thing or was it just a motion for that particular quarter?

Cimini: You can do separate motions.

Magliocchi: Separate because we have to do one for #3 and one for #1.

Galli: And Dickson City ambulance for 15.

Magliocchi: And actually #2 because technically so

Kucharski: So what do we have to do?

Cimini: I would do separate motions.

**10. Motion by Magliocchi**

**Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To pay the 3rd quarter allotment to the Volunteer Hose Co. Of Throop in the amount of \$6,000.00.

On the question:

Chorba: Did you absolve #2 yet all together?

Magliocchi: No. It's in the process.

Kucharski: And I did question when, at the last quarterly meeting and he said they had money in the bank to pay the utilities and whatnot.

Hegedus: He told me he is ok because I asked him.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

11. **Motion by Magliocchi** **Seconded by Tanana**

To pay the 3rd quarter allotment to Throop Hose Co. #1 in the amount of \$100.00.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

12. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To pay the 3rd quarter allotment to the Dickson City Ambulance in the amount of \$1,500.00.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

13. **Motion by Chorba** **Seconded by Tanana**

To withhold the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter allotment for Hose Co. #2.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

14. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Magliocchi**

To authorize Duda Actuarial Consulting to perform a actuarial cost study to determine if there will be an increase in the MMO for the Non Uniform Pension for collective bargaining.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**15. Motion by Tanana**

**Seconded by Magliocchi**

To submit payments to the Non-Uniform Pension Plan in the amount of \$65,581.44 and the Police Pension Plan in the amount of \$56,212.66. This represents the 2018 Commonwealth Allocation of General Municipal Pension System State Aid that was received on 9/20/2018 in the amount of \$121,794.10.

**All in favor except Tomasovitch  
abstained on Non Uniform Pension**

**Motion carried**

**16. Motion by Tanana**

**Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To authorize payment in the amount of \$18,877.21 to the Throop Volunteer Firemen's Relief Fund. This amount represents the 2018 Commonwealth Allocation supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**17. Motion by Tanana**

**Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To authorize council president to sign a letter of support for the LSA Grant.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

**18. Motion by Tanana**

**Seconded by Chorba**

To accept the proposal received from C.M. Eichenlaub Co. for 1 collegiate Breakaway Goal with Nylon Net for the Civic Center at a cost of \$487.00.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

19. Motion by Tanana

Carried by Tomasovitch

To forward the idea of amending the Zoning Ordinance to the Planning Commission regarding Boarding Houses / Sober Homes.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

20. Motion by Tanana

Carried by Magliocchi

To send a letter to Governor Wolf, Rep. Haggerty, Senator Blake, Mullins & Lemoncelli opposing the general assembly transferring the collection of the EIT from the local county collection committees as set up by Act 32 to the Department of Revenue of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

On the question:

Tomasovitch: I think you should send to Mullins and Lemoncelli too.

Tanana: Kyle Mullins which is the Democrat that won the Primary and Ernest Lemoncelli, Republican.

Tomasovitch: This way they know what's going on.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

21. Motion by Magliocchi

Seconded by Tanana

To install stop signs, in accordance with the Borough Engineers recommendations, at the corner of Schoolside Dr. & Varsity Dr.

Kucharski: That was the recommendation.

**All in favor**

**Motion carried**

Kucharski: Talked about the action list. Basically all but the first 2 pages are really obsolete.

Magliocchi: I actually just sent one over to her.

Kucharski: So what I'm suggesting is that pages 1 and 2 with the exception of the things that were addressed on pages 1 and 2 but everything else be deleted for the next meeting. If anybody on Council has anything that they think should not be deleted please let Renee know. But otherwise, Renee everything else on the last 4 pages or whatever it is just delete.

Tomasovitch: I have a question, I think you know about this *inaudible*, a constituent in Throop said something about the mailbox that is by Butash's. It was some place else and they said it is hard when there is trucks parked there. He want's to move it and I don't know where.

Magliocchi: Who does?

Kucharski: He wants it moved. He said by Juniors.

Magliocchi: That's not even ours.

Tomasovitch: That's what I told him that I really don't think that the post office will do that. He's supposed to come to a meeting.

Magliocchi: We can move it but it will probably come with a big fine.

Tomasovitch: No he want's us to contact the post office. He talked to you about it right?

Kucharski: Yea he did.

Gangemi: Tell him to write a letter to the post office.

Tomasovitch: Yea it's John, he got me today. I told him I don't think the post office will move it.

All talking at once.

Tomasovitch: I said I'd bring it up and I did.

All talking at once.

The Lackawanna County Community Relations Rep spoke of upcoming County events.

There were no audience comments.

The meeting adjourned.

Meeting minutes by Renee O'Malley  
Borough Secretary