

Minutes
Throop Borough Council
Monday, January 14th, 2019
Special 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:

Anthony Gangemi - P
Mike Chorba - A
Richard Kucharski - President - P
Charlene Tomasovitch - P
Vince Tanana - P
Wayne Williams - P
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:

Mayor Tropiak spoke of the Throop 125th celebration. He has the archive guy at the Scranton Times getting him information. Believes should meet soon.

Kucharski: Yes it is getting late. Why don’t you try to set up a meeting.

Tomasovitch: We said after the holidays.

Hegedus: We put it out there on facebook and we got no response from anybody in the community. We can blast it again and again.

Kucharski: And maybe if you have a meeting, there’s a plaque at the civic center that shows all the names of the individuals that were involved with the original centennial committee and many of them are deceased but there are still some that are not.

Tropiak: I hadn’t found that.

Kucharski: Ask Mary Ruth. It’s actually as you are walking into the gym the first doors I believe it is on the wall there. I think that’s where it is. I know I’ve seen it.

Tomasovitch: I have a list.

Mayor: I have something going there. We’ll push it forward.

Hegedus: Well we picked a date. If you remember. We advertised the date and its on the calendar right? For that last weekend in June.

O'Malley: Yes.

Hegedus: Before the 4th of July.

Kucharski: But again, time is of the essence.

Mayor: Was that going to be in touch with the night out or the cow flop?

Kucharski/Hegedus: No there is no cow flop.

Work Session/Meetings:

* The Jan. monthly work session/meeting will be held on Mon. Jan. 28th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

* The Feb. mid month work session/meeting will be held on Mon. Feb. 11th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

* The Feb. monthly work session/meeting will be held on Mon. Feb. 25th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

There were no audience comments on tonight's agenda.

1. Motion by Tanana

Seconded by Williams

To accept the minutes of the December 17th and December 27th, 2018 council meetings.

All in favor

Motion carried

2. Motion by Tanana

Seconded by Tomasovitch

To grant permission to the Dickson City American Legion Post 665 Baseball Club for the use of Washington Street Ballfield for the upcoming 2019 Jr/Sr American Legion Baseball Season (Mr. Bill Shevchik will schedule the field).

All in favor

Motion carried

3. **Motion by Tomasovitch** **Seconded by Tanana**

To grant permission to Mid Valley School District for the use of Washington Street Ballfield for the upcoming 2019 baseball season (Mr. Bill Shevchik will schedule the field).

All in favor

Motion carried

4. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Williams**

To adopt Ordinance #1 of 2019, an ordinance re-enacting a tax on assessed valuation.

All in favor

Motion carried

5. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To donate \$100.00 to Mid Valley Elementary Drama Club.

On the question:

Kucharski: Just to reiterate it's to donate \$100.00.

All in favor

Motion carried

6. **Motion by Tanana** **Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To accept the two probationary full time police officers (Brandon Straub and Nicolas Kasperowski) as regular full time police officers. One year probationary period ended January 10, 2019.

On the question:

Magliocchi: Do they get back pay from the 10th? I know their pay goes up. SO they would get that rate from January 10th.

Tomasovitch: Aren't we supposed to bring Straub in for recognition?

Magliocchi: They should get the back pay for the rate. It's only 4 days.

Williams: Yea.

Kucharski: Yes well it is effective the 10th so yea.

Williams: What happened with that certificate?

Tomasovitch: Mayor, the certificate for Straub

Mayor: I mentioned that, the Chief is working on that to get that done very soon.

Kucharski: Well let's try to do it for the next meeting.

Magliocchi: Actually have him have it ready for the next meeting. Not try.

Mayor: Alright. I will do that.

Kucharski: And then we'll have him here just to recognize him.

Mayor: I believe he has some other ones too that's why he is waiting.

All in favor

Motion carried

7. **Motion by Magliocchi**

Seconded by Tomasovitch

To authorize the civic center employees and new hires to be held to the same standards as child care providers.

All in favor

Motion carried

Official Comments:

Tomasovitch: Questioned what #33 in the packet is.

Gangemi: Yea I don't know what that is - a lawsuit?

Talking at once. Inaudible.

Magliocchi: Did we ever look into a car for Robbie?

Gangemi: Well I am hoping that the money that comes from that Tahoe we can use for that.

Magliocchi: Right but did we get a price on them?

Gangemi: No - we should.

Talking at once.

Gangemi: An Escape - yes. About 21.

Gangemi: Let me ask you Lou that email you sent out today is that something that you need an executive on or

Cimini: Yes.

Gangemi: You do right. Should we take care of that now so you can have - do you need an answer now or can you

Cimini: It should be.

Gangemi: Well then we should take 5 minutes for that.

Tanana: Yea after we'll have an executive.

Kucharski: At the end. Ok.

8. Motion by Tomasovitch

Seconded by Tanana

To grant permission to Holy Cross for the use of Washington Street Ballfield for the upcoming 2019 baseball season (Mr. Bill Shevchik will schedule the field).

All in favor

Motion carried

Audience Comments:

Caitlin from the County spoke of the upcoming Lackawanna County Events.

Elaine Morrell, George St.: Would like to know the status of the allotment for Hose Co. #1 and why they were only given \$100.00 for quarterly allotments three times last year.

Kucharski: Well we have had a few meetings and recently just had a meeting and there are several issues, #1, first and foremost I should say, is their inability to get enough man power to show up at fires, emergencies. Failure to cooperate with the borough and providing reports and anything that the Chief asks them is always a fight. Lou I don't know you may want to add anything else. A total lack of cooperation and we've tried to reach out to them. I asked the chief to have a couple meetings this past summer which they did and they really got nowhere and then asked Attorney Cimini to actually chair a meeting with Andy and the Chiefs of both companies and do you want to give us a brief report on that meeting.

Cimini: I emailed Jerry Barone after and Andy and said my take from the meeting was to summarize everything that was said came down to 4 main points that I thought. #1 I think it was agreed by everyone that man power was a big issue. #2

Magliocchi: Which is response time.

Cimini: Manpower was a big issue. Despite that they still want to be recognized for their efforts and they want the allotment. They weren't going to beg they weren't going to come to the borough and beg for money

Kucharski: Nobody wants them to do that

Cimini: which

Morrell: And they have never done. #1 has never done that.

Magliocchi: They don't have to beg but the thing is that they have to communicate.

Cimini: I don't think phrasing it in those terms that they were going to come here and beg for money I think coming here and opening up a dialog of communication with council would be a much better way to put and then finally I think we had a little disagreement in the emails on this point but what I heard was that ultimately when this runs its course consolidation is most likely the answer but when putting a term to when it runs its course they weren't ready to admit to that course of action.

Hegedus: Lou I have the email if you want me to read it.

Cimini: I think that was

Kucharski: Well he summarized it pretty well.

Magliocchi: I think the other thing is you know with the communication level is where when we ask to communicate and see what they needed and stuff like that they went and went the route

where they hired an attorney to communicate with us so now they are using, I look at it as, tax dollars money for an attorney just to talk to us which there was never any issue with us communicating with them they didn't want to communicate with us. At that point I find that absolutely ridiculous.

Morrell: Do you know that for a fact that they are paying an attorney?

Magliocchi: We actually had at this meeting and they were advised by the attorney, they said it numerous times it would be in one of the minutes

Morrell: And they are paying an attorney?

Magliocchi: From what we were told, yes.

Morrell: They're just being advised by an

Magliocchi: Well I mean if I am calling an attorney to be advised, I'm paying.

Morrell: Not always.

Magliocchi: Well, I don't know.

Morrell: Not always.

Magliocchi: I've never saw an attorney that gives free advice but

Morrell: I don't know I'm sure Louie

Magliocchi: Regardless but we have stated that to them and they didn't deny paying them so we are under the assumption that they are paying an attorney to talk to us.

Mayor: Some do pro bono.

Morrell: Can someone explain why, correct it could be, in 2016 the Borough gave an additional above the allotment, to Hose Co #2 \$26,934.60. That's more than an annual allotment. I don't understand how you can give additional money to one hose co. You also gave to hose co. #3, Volunteer's it's called now, \$100,000.00 in 2016 besides you're paying different expenses, insurance, there's towards a truck and

Kucharski: Well the borough owns the truck.

Tanana: The borough owns the vehicle. The vehicle needed to be housed ok nobody had room for it so at that time council decided put an addition on to your building get us prices and that's what they did. They got prices, and this was before I was even on Council

Kucharski: Me to

Tanana: that this was going on. They bought the vehicle, the borough owns the vehicle.

Morrell: The borough owns

Tanana: Yes the borough owns a 2016 or 2017 Pierce

Morrell: And so that's the reason the borough

Tanana: The borough has to pay the insurance

Morrell: is paying for the insurance and everything else.

Talking at once.

Morrell: The borough can't afford to give #1 their allotment?

Kucharski: #1 will not cooperate with us. Look I've bent over backwards, I don't want to see that happen. I mean and I've said it 20 times, look they were incorporated when the borough was incorporated in 1894 but come on, It's not #1, #2 and #3,

Morrell: No it isn't

Kucharski: it's the Throop fire department

Morrell: Correct.

Kucharski: And we have to work together. I mean if Andy asks them for a report it's like pulling teeth. Jerry won't give him anything. Or it has to go, now he wants it to go through Louie to, you know any correspondence instead of giving it directly to Andy. One of the things that Lou wanted

to do and the first issue in the meeting was first of all you have to, Andy Hegedus is the borough fire chief,

Morrell: I understand that.

Kucharski: And you know if he asks you for something you've got to give it to him because it's not him he's acting on behalf of Council. I mean this is childish. It is childish nonsense. If they want to come and cooperate, I think everybody on this, around this table, will be more than happy to fund them.

Morrell: Rich is it all about consolidation? Is that why the Borough stopped giving #1 any money?

Kucharski/Tomasovitch: No.

Magliocchi: No we stopped giving money because they were not responding for the key factor they are not getting out

Morrell: Because of consolidation?

Tanana/Tomasovitch: No.

Tanana: They weren't responding

Kucharski: Lack of manpower.

Morrell: being forced into consolidation

Kucharski: Well I can't force them to consolidate

Magliocchi: You can't force them, the problem is communication

Morrell: You can deny money from them which is what? How are they going to pay their insurance?

Magliocchi: Listen we are here

Morrell: They're volunteers.

Magliocchi: we are here to protect the borough whether it costs \$100,000 or

Morrell: I understand it and I'm a member. Our truck has gone out to fires. Yes we have low membership and it's wonderful that volunteers as so many young people and you're a member, I believe you are and Andy is um it's wonderful that #3 has the young people. I don't know why #1's not, why they aren't getting the younger people

Magliocchi: Because the truck isn't getting out. I hear it from actual members from #1. They don't even go there because they know the trucks not allowed to leave.

Morrell: Well if the members go the trucks going to get out

Magliocchi: No they tell me that they don't even go because there is no driver they never can get out and you know the biggest thing

Morrell: I think that was for a period of time.

Magliocchi: Well regardless but it's even the response times now when you said why did this fire house get 26,000 more and this one got 100,000 more, I am for giving them whatever they need if they are providing service to the town. I'm sorry but #1 is not providing service to the town. It's hit or miss. If we can get our money into a building that is covering the entire town whether yes maybe consolidation is the way to go where now #1 doesn't have to worry about the members, they have now members. It's one house nobody is fighting over stealing members or anything else like that. We're paying one insurance instead of 3. We're paying for one house, one bill. The town even saves money in general. There's a lot of options but we never forced anybody. The problem was we said we wanted communication and they did not want nothing to do with communication from #1 at all. Not at all. They can make it look like we're the bad ones, we're here to protect the town and that's what we're doing.

Morrell: It seems like there is a lack of communication.

Kucharski: Well it's not on our part.

Morrell: Ok. I'll look into that.

Magliocchi: We've even asked them, there's emails, everything, I talked to Jerry Barone personally, yes we're going to do this, this and that. Blah blah blah. Nothing.

Hegedus: We've had 4 meetings. And the last was well attended. There were 15 from #1 and 15 from the VHC. And it was good dialog but the outcome really was that manpower was the issue. Consolidation was the answer for man power issues but they are not interested in consolidation and Jerry's words were to let it run it's course.

Magliocchi: Right and you know what I don't understand by that remark is, consolidation, they're against it, why would you be against it to begin with? Are you for Throop or are you just for #1? The way I look at is they are just for their fire house, it's ours we want nothing to do with anyone else it's just this firehouse.

Morrell: #1 was never like that. #1 was never like that. If you know the history of the hose companies, #1 generally got along with all of the hose companies.

Hegedus: Absolutely.

Morrell: They really did. They really did.

Magliocchi/Morrell both talking at once.

Morrell: That's why I just don't understand what is going on now. I really don't. #1

Magliocchi: I always say that everyone is a team. One town. It's a team.

Morrell: #1 was always there for everyone.

Hegedus: Elaine this is a 2 ½ year back story to this that I'm not sure you've been given all the information.

Morrell: Well that's why I'm inaudible

Hegedus: I'm totally serious that I would be happy to sit down with you and show you

Morrell: I would like to be in the meeting when council meets with, I'd ask our hose co first

Magliocchi: We've had a couple.

Hegedus: We've had 4 of them. And apparently they didn't advise you that there was a meeting because Denise Armstrong was present at the lat meeting.

Morrell: I didn't even

Hegedus: So nobody probably told you about it. So you know we have had 4 separate sit downs with both - first of all 3 companies - it was 1 year tomorrow January 15th was the date of the first meeting.

Tomasovitch: last, yeah

Hegedus: Then we held a meeting in March, then we held a meeting at the civic center, then we held a meeting December 19th. That there were 30 people plus Louis, myself attended

Morrell: But you think holding their allotment is

Morrell/Hegedus talking at once.

Hegedus: I don't think anybody ever said that the allotment that they wanted to hold back but I'll use the example of the same thing with the Dickson City Ambulance, they were missing 40% of the calls in this town. They were not responding.

Magliocchi: You have to realize we're spending \$26,000.00 hoping they eventually get volunteers when we already have it. We can become one and a team and have everything we need. That's the problem. This town has so much money everybody makes it this is my team, this is my team.

Morrell: We do have a lot of money and we're spending a lot of money.

Magliocchi: That's the problem and everybody wants to be in their own division where this is one small town. We should be one. We should all work together. #1 does not want too. I saw that first hand, I've heard first hand, I can't say you guys feel the same but that's the way I feel. I'm not

against any member. I'm not against Jerry or any of them. I like them all. I see them, I wave. It's nothing personal it's what's best for the town. And I personally believe that what is being done is best for the town. That's how I look at it.

Morrell: On another question regarding the ambulance agreement. The Pennsylvania Ambulance, how's that going to work? Are the people of Throop going to be billed, is it going to be.

Magliocchi: It is going to be the exact same as it was with Dickson City. There's a lot of rumors out there.

Morrell: Is there going to be a membership, is there going to be a membership going out?

Kucharski: Yes.

Hegedus: I will tell you I met with the principles of Pennsylvania Ambulance the other day because they are going to use the same - we're going to move to the marketing company that they use for their fund drives and there's actually discounted prices for senior citizens.

Gangemi: That communication needs to get out.

Hegedus: Well it will get out

Morrell: It does need to get out.

Gangemi: It needs to get out soon. It's too late already.

Morrell: It says effective immediately and that was November

Gangemi: Well it's

TAPE ENDED.

Hegedus: listen to the tapes, they said that they would share that information.

Cimini: Oh maybe at the meeting. My conversation with the gentleman he said here is the number of the person who has everything.

Hegedus: Oh when you called for the list, right, and that is the point I am getting too. They did not get back with the list so lackawanna ambulance said they would honor anybody

Kucharski: Pennsylvania ambulance.

Hegedus: Excuse me Pennsylvania Ambulance, would honor anybody and everybody. The current membership drive from Dickson City Ambulance expires February 28th of this year. They will honor everybody and anything

Kucharski: Up until that time.

Hegedus: Up until then. Even if you weren't a member of the Dickson City Ambulance drive.

They're planning on getting their fund drive out before February 1st and they will see the discounted rates for basic life support which is what Dickson City was. Nothing will change except that the other day when we had an advance life support call of a gentleman overcome by natural gas on 827 Murray Street we had 3 ambulances there and 3 paramedics. The service had improved 10 fold for the care at no cost to the borough.

Tomasovitch: Andy, are they taking all insurances?

Hegedus: They take everything.

Magliocchi: Well they said the only thing you have to pay for is your deductible. They cannot wave that.

Hegedus: That's right. And you have to remember there are medicare and medicaid issues that are regulated by the government not by the ambulance companies so and everybody needs to understand that if like when Dickson City Ambulance came and a certain individual said he was transported in a Dickson City Ambulance but he got a bill from Pennsylvania ambulance that was because the paramedic went in the transport vehicle. He, somebody has to pay Pennsylvania

Ambulance for the paramedic that went with him because that one became an advanced life support call. When the paramedic goes somebody has to pay. When your insurance company reimburses you the \$600.00 for an ambulance call, that's not AFLAC, it's not a payment, a gift, it's supposed to go to Pennsylvania Ambulance. And on many occasions that has happened because I have personally called Pennsylvania Ambulance over the last 2 or 3 years for individuals that it happened too and they wiped it off. They're very cooperative. They're not greedy. They're not hungry. They're not playing any games and they are providing the best level of service that you could provide at no cost to the Borough.

Kucharski: Or no additional cost to the resident.

Hegedus: No cost to the Borough. We're not giving them the 10 or \$12,000 a year like we did and it was hit and miss if the ambulance was called between 6:00 and 10:00 at night. It was 50/50 if they were going to show up.

Kucharski: It just got to a point where

Hegedus: And Elaine in September when Council, in October when Council read the September report that they missed 60 calls in the month of September, Dickson City Ambulance, that's when the light bulbs went off with those 7 people and said we can't have that. And I hope I'm not speaking for you but that's summarizing what happened.

Kucharski: Well no that's what happened.

Magliocchi: Well I mean it's about the residents and that's what I said before

Morrell: I was just asking what the agreement was.

Magliocchi: No, right and I'm like when you were talking about the allotments, I'm very proactive. Anything emergency services, the police department or anything I am all for if it is provided, if it is there and what makes the best move for the town. You know and to be honest with you, I just hope that you weren't just sent up here to ask these questions

Morrell: They don't even know I'm here

Magliocchi: and that's

Kucharski: even if

Magliocchi: with all due respect, I just, like I said I hope because then you would know

Morrell: You know that's another thing, when I worked up here at the borough, I would have comments from people that would say well you told number one this or that, I never told anybody anything that I wasn't supposed too. If it's executive - it's executive, if it's public - it's public.

Magliocchi: well you'll always get that regardless.

Kucharski: Right.

Morrell: And I'm not going to be sent anywhere as a spy for anything or anyone just know that.

Magliocchi: No right, and just like a lot of times and that's like the whole thing with the communication like you know there is a lot of questions out there from members of #1 that are almost like asking well why, well why don't they come up here

Morrell: Some members of #1 don't know. I'm not a firefighting member.

Magliocchi: Don't you think that is a problem though? If you're a member of that fire house and they're not telling you anything that is going on?

Morrell: To be perfectly honest with you I have never been to one of their meetings.

Magliocchi: Right, I mean your not, there are actually firefighters that are basically telling me the same thing that you are telling me *inaudible* so I am going to go with that it is not open down there it's you know you have your board and we keep everything together. And that's how it is, we keep it amongst ourselves and that's the problem. And that may be the problem why they can't get members. It's unfortunate but I mean you know #2 can't get members so you have to look at they

actually

Morrell: That's another question, and I don't want to keep you here forever, who owns the building, #2's building?

Magliocchi: We actually just got rights to use the building. We are looking at - they are looking at turning it over to the borough at no charge and everything else like that where it would become our building and their issue was they couldn't get members either so the best interest of the town was they did the right thing, they became one, they moved.

Morrell: It's been quite a few years that many members of the boulevard did join Vols.

Magliocchi: Right, it's just the way everything is going today. They're hard to get to begin with. So I mean if it's a hard thing, volunteers, PA's the hardest - it's what the one with the most trouble right now with volunteers.

Talking at once.

Hegedus: In the 1970's there were 300,000 volunteer's. We are down to 38,000.

Magliocchi: That's what I'm trying to tell you - you can't have 100 fire houses anymore.

Hegedus: It's not about personalities

Gangemi: It doesn't make sense to have them.

Hegedus: It's not unique to Throop and it's not about personalities it's about what the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy has put in as far as training requirements and all that stuff plus the 100 million other things that kids and people do today. Volunteers across the board not just the fire service are becoming extinct.

Morrell: Absolutely. Churches, everywhere.

Magliocchi: I will say this I'm not a firefighter and I commend them for everything they do but I always look at it this way, if I was in their shoes and I always looked at like with the money this town has and the memberships that they have trouble with and you could become one house and have the best of the best - you argue with that, there's a reason. There's, I mean how could you argue with - do you want to become and be a firefighter and have the best of the best in this company? You have everything you need, No I don't want to be I want my own company.

Morrell: Well I feel as though our 3 hose companies more less had the best of the best butt they worked their butts off to have it and there were 3 separate hose companies.

Magliocchi: And another thing, I don't think these guys should have to run fund raisers and everything else like that to provide service to our town.

Morrell: And they do. They have a BBQ coming up.

Gangemi: Some of that is good for commodore to a degree.

Magliocchi: Right it's good but it shouldn't be

Magliocchi/Gangemi talking at once.

Kucharski: Well look it, this came to head and I believe it was in 2017 there were 90

Hegedus: 109 calls and the actual calls that the ladder was on scene were 9. And there were some people that argued

Morrell: Was it because the ladder was told they did not have to come out.

Hegedus: No, no, no. We broke it all down Elaine. I would love to get with you and show you

Morrell: Are there times when they were told they weren't needed?

Kucharski/Hegedus: Yes.

Morrell: Are there many times that they were told they weren't needed.

Hegedus: Yes. Not by the fire department. By Police, State Police

Morrell: By 911 and whatever.

Hegedus: I will gladly sit down with you and show you those numbers because you obviously have

not been told any of that stuff. You came here to ask questions and I would be happy to inaudible anytime. Seriously.

Morrell: I know. What are your plans for #2 Hose Co.?

Kucharski: Well Wayne can address that. She said what are the plans for #2.

Williams: Like Bobby said it will be turned over to the borough.

Morrell: I know but what are the plans for the use.

Magliocchi: Probably going to use it temporarily, right now we were looking at the DPW storing stuff in there because the garage that they built obviously wasn't done right.

Kucharski: Well they are actually storing stuff now.

-----: They are storing some stuff there now.

Kucharski: We cleaned out some space in the borough garage here and the police cars are being parked in there now.

Morrell: That's good.

Magliocchi: This way when, there isn't 12 inches of snow covering the police cars.

Morrell: Yeah I didn't understand why this was empty and police cars were outside to be honest with you.

Magliocchi: Well it wasn't really empty. It was packed I mean that's why we were able to use the garage so we emptied a lot of stuff and put it in that garage and now they will be able to use it.

Morrell: Any consideration, I don't know how the seniors would like it but using #2 as the senior center. Moving the whole senior center down there?

Magliocchi: I think that has to be dedicated to the seniors.

Morrell: I think it was only for so many years. I think we are past that.

Magliocchi: I don't know if they would like going from over there to really a garage if you think about it.

Morrell: We have the money to fix it.

Tanana asked if we need the Lackawanna County Association of Boroughs dues on for a motion.

Galli: No.

Tanana, Kucharski, Tomasovitch and the Mayor will go to the dinner.

Hegedus asked if anyone was going to the installation dinner on the 26th. Tomasovitch is.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Minutes by Renee O'Malley
Borough Secretary