

**MOUNT POCONO BOROUGH COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014  
7:00 P.M.**

President J. Finnerty opened the Regular Meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present: Vice President R. Gross; Councilmembers, D. Casole; K. Davis, C. Williams and W. Jabara. Mayor F. Courtright, Solicitor J. Fareri and Borough Secretary/ Treasurer L. Noonan were also present.

Councilmember F. O'Boyle was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilmember D. Casole moved to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of November 3, 2014, as presented. Councilmember K. Davis seconded. Motion carried with Councilmember C. Williams abstaining as she was absent.

**OFFICERS' REPORTS**

**PRESIDENT**

President J. Finnerty thanked Borough Council for its hard work over a two (2) night period in putting together a budget to present this evening. He understands the Budget and Finance Committee will be presenting a balanced budget for 2015 with no proposed tax increase.

**MAYOR**

Mayor F. Courtright stated that this evening he attended a Holiday Party at Pocono Manor which included Kalahari. He also stated that Todd Kravitz with Kalahari thanked the Borough of Mount Pocono for its help in getting the gas line put through to service their new resort.

Mayor F. Courtright noted that yesterday "Cookies with Santa" was held at the Casino Theatre and he estimated that between 100 and 130 families were present for that time and that they sang holiday songs at the Christmas tree lighting which was held at 4:00 P.M. He stated that as always Santa did a wonderful job and he thanked Karen and Don Struckle for hosting Cookies with Santa at their business once again. He also discussed a problem that Karen and Don Struckle have been experiencing once again with the busses stopping in front of their business and blocking their driveway entrance and asked for assistance in getting that stopped.

Mayor F. Courtright stated that he is soliciting names for the Service Award which will be given to a non-elected official and he reminded everybody that Bill Bracey with the recipient last year. He asked if any Councilmember had name or names to add to the list to be considered to please send them to him within the next week to ten days.

President J. Finnerty noted that the Borough is holding its annual holiday get together at a business in Barrett Township which is owned by a resident in the Borough, the Neville's Bloomin Onion. He explained that the Borough Councilmembers and the Planning Commission, Zoning Hearing Board and Municipal Authority members have been invited to attend and he looks forward to seeing a good turn out to help support a business that was severely affected by the recent manhunt.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The following cash report was given as follows:

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GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 591,713.67
PENN SECURITY GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT	20,712.71
CAPITAL RESERVE ACCOUNT	48,433.11
BANNER BEAUTIFICATION ACCOUNT	2,107.37
STATE LIQUID FUELS	53,071.09
PARK & RECREATION FUND	10,670.83
PLANNING COMMISSION REIMB. FUND	52,067.68
ROAD FUND – GENERAL FUND	96,932.17
STORMWATER FUND	132,637.58
GENERAL FUND RESERVE PLGIT ACCOUNT	41,382.87
SANITATION FUND	23097.38
ROUTE 940 CORRIDOR FUND	53,675.00
FIVE POINT INTERSECTION FUND	<u>326,593.48</u>

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$ 1,453,094.94**

Vice President R. Gross moved to pay and approve the bills as outlined in the Treasurer's Report dated Monday, December 8, 2014, as presented. Councilmember C. Williams seconded. Councilmember W. Jabara requested that the bills to Eastern Time and Schaedler Yesco be held and not paid at this time and that the bill to Murray's Towing for the towing of the Kenworth be forwarded to E. M. Kutz for reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously.

**BILLS TO BE PAID FROM THE GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT:**

Amerihealth Casualty	(Workers Comp)	\$ 2,430.22
ACE Hardware	(small tools/ supplies)	129.35
Berkheimer Associates	(LST Commission)	382.21
Blue Cross of NEPA	(health insurance)	8,080.54
Blue Ridge Cable	(phones)	802.05
Boston Mutual	(life/ disability insurance)	234.15
CPC Signs	(street signs)	400.88
H. Clark Connor	(December retainer PC Solicitor)	500.00
Coolbaugh Township	(Reimbursement for wood grinder teeth)	1,000.00
R.N. DeMeck Roof Management	(repairs to Boro bldg. roof)	2,644.38
FNB Visa	(maint. tools/ supplies, AED Battery, floral)	638.19
G & K Services	(uniforms/ rug service)	316.04
Gilmore & Associates, Inc.	(engineer)	2,339.78
Gotta Go Potties	(portable toilets)	340.00
International League of Cities	(annual dues/ membership 2015)	500.00
Monroe County Info Services	(RE Bills)	31.84
Murray's Towing	(2014 Kenworth towed to EM Kutz)	550.00
Nagle Elevator Inspection	(inspection)	70.00
NE PA Alliance	(annual membership dues)	275.00
Neopost USA	(postage meter)	109.79
Newman, Williams, Mishkin	(Pula Appeal & Lien Search)	275.00
NAPA Auto parts	(vehicle parts)	336.17
PA One Call	(services)	49.95
PA American Water Co.	(Boro bldg. / maint. garage)	770.92
PPL	(electric)	940.67
PSAB	(2015 Subscription)	84.00
Payrolls Unlimited	(payroll service)	82.00
Pliociniak Oil	(heating oil both buildings)	1,791.18
PM Volunteer Fire Co.	(Delinquent Taxes rec'd)	809.64
PM Public Library	(Delinquent Taxes rec'd)	809.64
PM Regional EMS	(Delinquent Taxes rec'd)	404.82
Parc	(contribution – 2014)	2,997.00

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PM Regional Police	(mortgage)	\$ 3,010.44
Pocono Record	(advertising – ZHB MPMA Variance)	337.60
Response Computers	(update security programs on 3 PC's)	195.00
Quill	(copy paper & office supplies)	203.26
RRG	(printing)	82.00
Selective Insurance	(insurances)	2,179.00
Signal Service	(repairs to SR 940/ Wal-Mart)	1,551.00
Stroudsburg Electric Motor	(circulator)	81.94
Sworen's Transmission	(Bucket Truck)	728.56\
Sunoco (COSTARS)	(gas/ diesel)	980.81
Tulpehocken Spring Water	(bottled water)	5.00
US Bank	(copier)	415.75
United Concordia	(dental)	329.10
Verizon	(phone)	42.99
Verizon Wireless	(cell phones)	124.99
Wal-Mart	(building supplies)	39.58
Jack Williams Tire	(2009 Ford F550 New rear tires)	<u>1,516.83</u>

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$ 44,168.34**

**BILLS TO BE PAID FROM THE GENERAL FUND CHECKING ACCOUNT:**

Mt Pocono Payroll	(w/e 11/05/14)	\$5,054.75
Mark & Janet Primrose	(Deposit – Knob Property)	500.00
Mt Pocono Payroll	(w/e 11/12/14)	5,126.11
Mt Pocono Payroll	(w/e 11/19/14)	6,000.10
Mt Pocono Payroll	(w/e 11/26/14)	<u>5,216.15</u>

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$ 21,897.11**

**BILLS TO BE PAID FROM THE STATE LIQUID FUELS ACCOUNT:**

PPL	(electric)	<b><u>\$ 1,936.21</u></b>
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**SOLICITOR**

Solicitor J. Fareri stated that the closing of the Knob property will be scheduled and hopefully that will happen prior to the end of the year.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

**Dr. Gregory Pence – Fairview Avenue**

Dr. Pence asked to defer his comments until Borough Council discussed the Proposed 2015 Budget.

**Chabad Yeshiva of the Poconos**

A Rabbi with “Chabad Yeshiva of the Poconos a Rabiniare Seminary was present noting that their message the “World in its essence is a good place and if everyone does their part the world can be changed”. He was seeking permission to place a menorah in the borough from December 16<sup>th</sup> thru December 24<sup>th</sup>. He explained that it would need to be near an electrical outlet. Council discussed the best location and easiest location for accessible electric supply is at the Town Clock.

Vice President R. Gross moved to allow the Yahiza of the Poconos to put a menorah down by the Town Clock for a ten (10) day period beginning December 16<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember W. Jabara seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PARC**

Solicitor J. Fareri stated that Borough Council is in receipt of letter that needs to be signed. The letter is to Salyn D. Stover, with the Department of Conversation and Natural Resources which outline the Borough Council's desire to withdraw from PARC and our agreement to make a settlement payment in the amount of \$9,300.00 to Paradise and Barrett Townships, in return we will have our name removed from the deed of the properties owned by PARC.

Councilmember K. Davis moved to execute the letter of agreement and to pay the \$9,300.00 when DCNR and Monroe County have also agreed to the Borough's removal from PARC. Vice President R. Gross seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Committee Reappointments**

Vice President R. Gross moved to reappoint Oscar Ramos to the Zoning Hearing Board for a five (5) year term. Councilmember K. Davis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President R. Gross moved to reappoint Ron Emilie to the Mount Pocono Municipal Authority for a four (4) year term. Councilmember D. Casole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember K. Davis moved to reappoint Elias Dudash to the Planning Commission for a four (4) year term. Vice President R. Gross seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President R. Gross moved to reappoint Danielle Rake to the Pocono Mountain Public Library Board for a three (3) year term. Councilmember D. Casole seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Proposed 2015 Budget**

The Budget and Finance Committee presented Borough Council with a balanced Proposed 2015 Budget in the amount of \$1,812,600.00 that proposes no tax increase.

Vice President R. Gross moved to advertise the Proposed 2015 Budget with no tax increase and to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, December 22, 2014, at 6:45 P.M. with a regular meeting scheduled at 7:00 P.M.

The Proposed 2015 Budget amount is \$1,812,600.00 with a millage of 29 ½ mills staying the same with no tax increase. Councilmember K. Davis seconded.

Motion went to questions and comments.

Mayor F. Courtright discussed that Borough Council agreed to work with Regional EMS similar to the Borough giving the Fire Company an additional \$3,000.00 to offset their fuel costs, the Borough will work with Regional EMS in various ways to help them in their needs and to help offset some of their other costs associated with running the Regional EMS.

Dr. Gregory Pence of Pocono Boulevard, discussed the Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance and the huge burden on the businesses and residents that live along SR 611 (Pocono Boulevard), Fairview Avenue and Fork Street. He questioned Borough Council if it budgeted to have the snow professionally removed during the 2015 snow season.

Councilmember K. Davis stated that it was not budgeted for.

Mayor F. Courtright noted that there are liability issues; the liability is that of the homeowner.

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Linda Fleming of Fairview Avenue, discussed the burden it is for her personally to remove the snow.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding this, ending with Borough Council stating that they did not budget for professional snow removal of the sidewalks in the Borough of Mount Pocono.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Sanitation Bid Results**

Borough Council announced two (2) trash bids that were opened at a bid opening on December 3, 2014:

- J.P. Mascaro & Sons - \$949,535.64 for a three (3) year contract.
- Kreitzer Sanitation - \$1,087,992.00 for a three (3) year contract.

In view of the two (2) trash bids received, Vice President R. Gross moved to award a three (3) year contract to J. P. Mascaro & Sons with the lump sum bid which does not include containers for garbage and recyclables for a three (3) year total of \$949,535.64. It was noted that there would be no increase over the next three (3) years in garbage fee services. Councilmember K. Davis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Planning**

Councilmember D. Casole noted that the Planning Commission met last month and reviewed the Trees Ordinance and after a complete review they recommended no changes or amendments to the current Ordinance however they recommended strict enforcement of the Trees Ordinance and suggested that Borough Council consider hiring a Code Enforcement Officer.

Councilmember D. Casole also discussed that she is waiting to hear back from Mr. Bedrin of DEP who is out of town through December 16, 2014, to schedule a meeting with Mark Werkjezer to attend an upcoming meeting or work session of the Planning Commission to discuss the Air Pollution Control Ordinance.

**Stormwater**

Councilmember W. Jabara stated that we still have an outstanding item with the Lowe's stormwater issue and that we are waiting on having that rectified. He noted that he received a complaint from a resident on Daisy Lane in regards to drainage from a neighbor's roof and also discussed Quay Avenue and the portion of the road that was dedicated.

**Utilities**

Vice President R. Gross noted that the next meeting will be on Thursday, December 11, 2014, and they are moving forward with their projects.

Councilmember W. Jabara noted that the UGI did a great job drilling under SR 940, it was amazing to see how the machinery worked that drilled under the road and that UGI did a fantastic job.

**Water**

Councilmember D. Casole advised that she spoke with Dave Altmiller with PAWC regarding the hydrant on SR 611 @ Burke's Tavern. Mr. Altmiller advised that the hydrant has been ordered and they are expecting delivery this week, they have made their PA One Call request to dig and if the weather holds out there is a possibility that the hydrant would be installed within the next two (2) weeks.

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**Streets**

Councilmember W. Jabara noted that during the last snow storm there were two (2) breakdowns, one (1) of the trucks was returned today. There is a long storm coming up and the crew has been busy prepping for this upcoming storm.

**Sanitation**

Mayor F. Courtright stated that Kreitzer Sanitation has been bought out by another company however Kreitzer is still picking up the Borough of Mount Pocono and the service has not been the best few weeks. He asked everybody to be patient and to advise if their garbage was not picked up and the Borough offices will do their best to coordinate pickups.

**Buildings**

Vice President R. Gross stated that the 2015 Budget includes money budgeted to repair/ replace the current Borough building roof along with some other repairs.

**Budget and Finance**

Discussed earlier.

**Recreation**

Councilmember K. Davis stated that there was no meeting this month. Councilmember K. Davis requested that beginning next year the money that was dedicated to PARC be now dedicated to the Park & Recreation Commission for improvements to the Borough owned parks.

**Personnel**

No report.

**Regional Police**

Vice President R. Gross noted that there was a joint meeting held on November 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Pocono Mountain West High School and the members of Coolbaugh, Tobyhanna and Tunkhannock Townships and the Borough of Mount Pocono. All member municipalities listened to Coolbaugh Township's concerns. He stated that there is now a possibility of an upcoming lawsuit with Coolbaugh Township and because of the complaints from Coolbaugh Township and their concerns it may have affected the decision of Barrett Township to join the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department.

Councilmember D. Casole requested a copy of the by-laws for review.

**Regional EMS**

Mayor F. Courtright stated that the Business Manager resigned last month and they are now looking for a replacement and noted that their next meeting will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M. He also noted that they too have been working on their budget.

**COG**

Councilmember W. Jabara noted that there are no meetings held during the months of November and December.

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**Open Space**

It was noted that the closing of the Knob property should be very soon.

**PARC**

No meeting.

**Five Points Intersection/ Traffic**

Councilmember W. Jabara requested that a letter be sent to Coolbaugh Township in regards to multi-municipal LSA Grant for the repairs needed to the Belmont Avenue Bridge. He also discussed Pine Hill traffic signal and the right hand turn lane from Wendy's heading South on SR 611. He noted that Wendy's is willing to donate the land and he is interested in pursuing a LSA Grant to get that designated right hand turn extended through the Wendy's property.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Hildy Franzo 8 Knob Road**, complimented the Borough noting that the downtown lights look beautiful and that the Borough should be very proud of how pretty the town looks.

**Harry Zeiler, 12 Fairview Avenue**, discussed sandwich board signs and why he was not permitted to keep his sign for his business located at 12 Fairview Avenue along Pocono Boulevard.

It was agreed that he should contact the Borough's Zoning Officer and Mayor F. Courtright also stated that he would review the Ordinance.

There being no further business or any further public participation coming before the Board, Councilmember K. Davis moved to adjourn at 8:55 P.M. Councilmember C. Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Noonan, Borough Secretary