

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
March 7, 2017

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, Patrick K. Morgan, James S. Bailey, John S. Styer and John A. Armbrust. Member Terry S. Mohler was absent. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor Wilbur G. Horning, Police Chief Donald L. Bowers, Jr., Lt./Det. Jonathan Heisse and reporter Allison Cuthie. Others in attendance included Carl Hess, Bill Kassinger, Patricia Smith, Larry Smith, Charles Kidhardt, Bill Clisham, Tim Bender, Keith Snowberger, Diana Morgan, Mike Kurtz, Bryant Glick, Steve Loewen, Linda Scerca, Carissa Moore, Chris Refford, Clark Bearinger and resident and Borough representative to the ELANCO Library Mike Ireland.

President Herrington opened the meeting, asking for action on the Minutes of Council's prior meeting.

Patrick Morgan made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of February 7, 2017, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by John Styer and passed.

John Armbrust made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Patrick Morgan and passed.

Police Chief Bowers then reviewed his monthly summary Report of Department activities. He noted overall it was another mainly quiet month except for the number of felony crime arrests, which were 16 during the period. There was an unusual incident on the first of the month when former police chief Don Troupe, who was at Yoder's Market at the time a horse with sulky took off and ran down westward on Main to Kinzer Avenue where it turned north then into a nearby property. Mr. Troupe was able to calm the horse and prevent it from further potential injury. He was also assisted in this by an East Brandywine Township police officer (Officer Orris) who happened to be in the vicinity as he was traveling to a business in the Borough. On the 7th, Tyson Foods hosted the officers on dayshift for lunch, which included Officers Specht, Bitner, Sergeant Willwerth, Lt./Det. Heisse and himself. Tyson also provided a donation to the Borough for use in the purchase of the electronic emitter system for on the police vehicles so they are detected by the new camera controlled traffic light system. On the 11th, Officer Custer assisted the East Cocalico Police Department with Rescue Task Force Training. Officer Metzler received a follow-up note from a person who he had stopped for a speeding warning. The note stated Officer Metzler was very much a gentleman. Officer Custer received

a written letter of compliment from a person he stopped for an expired registration, noting that the officer was a decent guy who cut him a break even though he (the driver) was wrong. Officers Young and Fritz did an Officer Friendly presentation at the Early Learning Center on Western Avenue.

Police Chairman Burkhart made the motion that the resignation of Police Chief Donald L. Bowers, Jr. effective March 24, 2017, be accepted. This was seconded by Jim Baily and passed.

Chairman Burkhart next made the motion that current Lieutenant/Detective Jonathan Heisse serve as Acting Chief until a new Chief is hired and sworn-in beginning March 24, 2017. This was seconded by John Armbrust and passed.

Chairman Burkhart then made the motion that Council approve the use of Police Services Consultant Ron Smeal to work with the Borough in the process of hiring a new Chief. He noted that Mr. Smeal was used in the past by the Borough prior to the hiring of Chief Bowers and actually served as Acting Chief of Police for the Borough at that time for a number of months. This was seconded by John Styer and passed.

Council President Herrington noted that former Council member and Chairman of the Police Committee Bill Clisham is here this evening and has asked if he may say a few words related to the Chief moving on from New Holland, and he will now address Council and the audience.

Mr. Clisham then read the following statement:

As a former New Holland Borough Councilman and Police Committee Chairperson, it has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with Chief Bowers for six years. He has been a true asset to the officers and citizens of New Holland and Earl Township. What I will take away from having worked alongside the Chief is his uncompromised professionalism regardless of the situation. Having observed this trait from the Chief, I have tried to emulate this in my life as well. The Chief has been active in the community and has served in several local non-profit organizations. He is well respected amongst the citizens. The Chief has been a champion for the Volunteer Fire and EMS Services, making their safety a top priority. During his tenure, the department has updated its policy manuals, added supervisory ranks, added camera systems in the cars, provided a fulltime officer to serve on the Lancaster County Drug Task Force, provided the training opportunity for one of our officers to become DRE Certified (one of less than four in the county to receive this certification), and was a driving force for the current building expansion. Our son will soon be graduating from College with his Criminal Justice Degree and will be attending the Reading Police Academy. Fortunately, he had the opportunity to serve an internship with the New Holland Police Department under Chief Bowers. It is my wife and my hopes that wherever he finds his first employment as a police officer that he has the good fortune to serve with a Chief who has the same qualities as Chief Bowers. Chief,

I wish you nothing but the best in your next position and the future. Enjoy the beach life! Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the community and God Bless you and your family.

President Herrington thanked Mr. Clisham for these comments, noting that was a good outline of the Chief's accomplishments and activities and how he has served our community.

Property Chairman Bailey stated that as an information item, for those who may not have noticed the contractors have been working on the expansion of the Police Department since early last week. They are expected to be completed by July.

There were no Finance, Personnel, Water or Wastewater action items presented.

John Armbrust representing the Streets Committee presented a number of items. He first made the motion that Council grant approval to the Farmers Fair Association for the closing and use of the street areas needed for its annual Fair this year, which due to this year's calendar seems a few days later than normal. This is from Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 1 p.m. until 8 a.m. Sunday, October 8, 2017; which involves the street areas of Main Street from Railroad, west to Custer, South Roberts, East Franklin from South Roberts, east to South Railroad and North Roberts from Main, north to Broad Street. The Association is aware of its responsibility to obtain Police and Fire Police assistance as necessary. This was seconded by Patrick Morgan and passed.

John Armbrust then made the motion that Council approve the request of the Farmers' Fair Association to hold its annual Parade on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., closing the streets of Jackson Street from Ranck Road, west to South Custer, Custer, north from Jackson to West Broad, Broad from North Custer, east to North Railroad, North Railroad, south to Main, then Main east to Kinzer. This was seconded by Jim Bailey and passed.

John Armbrust next made the motion that the low bid award for the planned 2017 street work, be awarded to New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co. of Ephrata, PA, in the amount of \$158,484.89. This was seconded by Todd Burkhart. Councilman Armbrust noted that three bids were publicly opened on February 21st as advertised. This cost is less than the budgeted estimate and this will be the third year in a row that more than normal annual street work will again be able to be done. The motion then passed.

Mayor Horning reported the monies received through the Police Department the past month were \$731.47 from the District Justice's office; \$180 in Accident Reports;

\$120 from fingerprinting; and \$10 in parking fines. On some community items of interest he reported he was able to attend the 100th Anniversary Dinner of New Holland's Troop 48 Boy Scout Troop. There have been other older Troops in the county but Troop 48 is the longest consecutively uninterrupted Troop for the 100 years. Over the course of the Troop's history, there have been over 100 Eagle Scouts who came from the Troop. The Museum is to have a display of the history of the Troop from now through October. He noted he recently attended a meeting of the local Committee group involved with the Welsh Mountain Preserve. This has become a popular area with many hiking opportunities. He feels it is a nice asset to the area. On another item, he wants to remind folks that there is a public reception to be held at Garden Spot Village on Tuesday, March 21st to allow the community to extend its thanks and best wishes to Chief Bowers as he moves on from the Borough. It is to begin at 1 p.m. with coffee and some small desserts and a few remarks at 1:15 p.m.

Mike Ireland, representing the ELANCO Library Board reported the Board has been fortunate lately to have filled some of the open positions on the Board, two from East Earl Township and one from Earl Township. They have hired a new Assistant Director/Children's Library Director, Carla Castro. The Library also received a \$7,500 grant through the Lancaster County Community Foundation from an anonymous person in the group to be used for the Children's Library. The big recent activity to report is that the annual Dinner/Auction for the Library was held last Saturday. Councilman Morgan again generously served as an Auctioneer. It was a better success than anticipated with a projected net of about \$59,000. As most know this is a critical local piece of funding for the Library.

Resident Linda Scerca reported that she is trying to get groups together to come up with a community event probably at Community Memorial Park for New Year's Eve; possibly with some type of drop at midnight. She is hoping to have many community groups and clubs all do a part to help make it happen. She thinks it could be from 9:30 p.m. to like 1:30 a.m. so that people do not just leave after midnight. She is not quite sure how yet to approach this.

President Herrington stated she should continue to talk with groups to see who might be interested, noting that many would have already participated in the Business Association's Christmas on Main which is celebrated just a few weeks before. After she has talked with the various groups she can talk with Manager Fulcher about the Park and the situation.

Councilman Burkhart asked Ms. Scerca if she had already talked with the Business Association to determine its interest, though again, a lot of effort is put into the Christmas On Main program.

Ms. Scerca said she would talk to these people and Manager Fulcher about it.

There being no further public discussion, President Herrington stated he had a few words to add to what Mr. Clisham outlined so well as to Chief Bowers moving on from New Holland. He remembers about six years ago when the Chief was an applicant at the time. He had a strong résumé and recommendations. There were challenges in the operations of the Police Department and many things with the Department needed to be improved. We now have improved scheduling, a better handle on overtime and have not had such a positive personal impact in the community since longtime local resident Ed Sprecher was Chief. There are always going to be challenges but for his efforts, Chief Bowers's time has been mission accomplished. He will be missed by the residents, organizations and businesses of the Borough and Earl Township. We hope we are able to find someone similarly capable to carry on the good work. We wish him well.

Chief Bowers stated he appreciates and is humbled by such comments. He has enjoyed his time here. He noted he learned early on that in public service there are three important elements to work with, the elected officials, the constituents and the employees. He hopes he was able to do this in a positive manner.

Member Patrick Morgan then asked if Council could convene into Executive Session to discuss Police personnel matters. The meeting then convened into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.

Upon reconvening into Regular session, there was no further business or public comment. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

April 4, 2017
Date Approved