

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
September 4, 2018

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, James S. Bailey, Patrick K. Morgan, Terry S. Mohler, John A. Styer and Abby L. Keiser. President Donald J. Herrington was absent. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Solicitor Bradford J. Harris and Mayor M. Timothy Bender. Others in attendance included Borough water consultant Jeff Bologna of Becker Engineering, stormwater consultant Darrell Becker of ARRO Consulting, residents Bill Kassinger, Keith Snowberger, Mike Kurtz and Diana Morgan, Earl Township residents Ken Harnish and Linda Harnish and student Marlia Mattes.

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

John Styer made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of August 7, 2018, be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Patrick Morgan and passed.

Terry Mohler made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Jim Bailey and passed.

Police Chief Leighty then briefly reviewed his monthly Report of department activities. There were 299 total incidents, which included 6 felonies and 3 misdemeanors; 12 accidents of which 2 were reportable. There were 62 traffic citations and 19 warnings. There were three juvenile contacts. Of the main community events listed in the Report, the first National Night Out event by the Department was held last month on the 7th. There was a great turnout, which unfortunately was only going on for about an hour before the heavy, dangerous storms arrived. Sergeant Willwerth put a lot of work into it and the crowd was larger than expected.

Councilmember Keiser stated she thought it was a successful beginning and feels it will have a larger turnout next year. She thanks Sergeant Willwerth for his efforts with this. She asked Chief Leighty what the Report category of "Theft" involves.

Chief Leighty reported that this can involve many and various types of usually personal property type items.

Vice-President Burkhart thanked Chief Leighty for the Report information. He then noted as Chairman of the Police Committee that as discussed at Council's July meeting, the process is underway for the possibility of hiring one or two police officers to help meet the need to fill shifts as well as address the amount of overtime costs in the interim. Our part-time officer will be off for an extended period due to an off-site injury and another officer is also off for a period due to illness. The former Lieutenant also took much of the available overtime. The Police Committee will be interviewing the three candidates formally provided by the Civil Service Commission later this week. The Committee feels if it identifies two quality candidates it may come back to Council to consider the possible hiring of two new officers to deal with the needs. When the regular officer returns to duty, one officer could then be considered for temporary assignment to the county's Drug Task Force.

Committee member Mohler noted he feels the current situation has the Borough at a point of concern for the understaffing.

Councilmember Morgan stated he understands the staffing situation but also wants to proceed with a feel for the impact of these potential things concerned with the monetary and budget impacts.

The Chief responded noting he has a better feel for outlining the open shift demands and the large amount of over-time costs under the situation. All the officers and sergeants have stepped up to assist with this issue but there are also other officer personal situations coming up that will add to these costs. He defers to the Manager for better information as to the elements of the Borough budget.

Manager Fulcher noted that though this year is the restricted first year following a reassessment it has gone well and with the main impacts of such action coming towards the last quarter and some reduced costs in overtime, he is cautiously optimistic it will be fine this budget year. Things will be able to be better identified as to what impact it could have on next year's tax rate as we work through next year's budget plan over the next month or so.

Mayor Bender stated he was doing a review of the overtime costs under the current situation and though they would not stop, they would be reduced to offset some of the increased costs of additional officers.

Councilman Mohler then made the motion that Council be open to considering the possible hiring of two new police officers if presented as a recommendation of the Police Committee following the interview and background process. This was seconded by Abby Keiser and passed.

Finance Chairman Morgan made the motion that Council approve the second half budgeted donation to the ELANCO Library for 2018, in the amount of \$7,500, be approved. This was seconded by John Styer and passed.

Property Chairman Bailey stated he had no action items to report but for general information he noted the demolition and restoration work continues with good progress at the old silk mill. He also wants to note that he is aware local governments have no control over the safety requirements of the larger propane storage tanks, however he is concerned for that section of the Borough (South Railroad Avenue/East Fulton St.) if a disaster should hit. He knows it is a large investment and the railroad built a new siding to the site for it. He still remains concerned if something should happen.

Vice-President Burkhart noted that the Borough has had similar but smaller propane businesses in more residential locations and though incidents can occur anytime, there have not been any in the past. He sees it as a significant investment in the community strengthening the tax base and providing jobs.

Water/Wastewater Committee Chairperson Keiser stated she did not have any action items but did want to remind everyone that with the sudden shortages of metal piping and the anticipated significant price increases from the current tariff wars, it appears the long planned Ranck Road e/w loop connection, to the existing line near Windsock Way will likely be postponed from this fall to a later date. This materials situation could also impact the schedule of other long planned projects also on the wastewater side.

Streets Chairman Mohler reported he had no action items but also wants to remind folks that people are no longer supposed to wash their vehicles on the street nor their driveways if the water runs out onto the street. This is part of the upcoming MS4 program regulations. On a different matter, he noted he met recently with the representatives of the Fire Company to receive their draft budget information and intermunicipal funding formula request for 2019. He will be clarifying some items with them, then meeting with the other two municipal representatives to see how they feel about the initial request. He will also be meeting with Manager Fulcher to provide the detail information to him.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the Police Department this past month as: \$1,021.27 from the District Justice's office; \$225 from accident reports; \$80 from parking fines; and \$100 from fingerprinting. He noted the next upcoming big community event is the annual Farmer's Fair and parade.

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

October 2, 2018

Date Approved