

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council Workshop
October 20, 2021

New Holland Borough Council met in regular budget workshop session on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, Patrick K. Morgan, Harry M. Klinger and Bryant J. Glick via phone. Members John A. Styer and Michael H. Kurtz were absent. Others present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher and Mayor M. Timothy Bender.

President Herrington opened the meeting asking Manager Fulcher to review the draft 2022 budget.

Manager Fulcher reported that as initially drafted, there is no increase in the general tax rate. The big change as anticipated is the updated costs related to the new contract with Eagle Disposal for the community trash/recycling program. The good news over the initially projected new yearly cost of \$300 is that it has been recalculated to \$280, a 44 percent increase; which is \$85 more per year; \$21.25 per quarter. The \$10 pre-pay for the full year in January will still be utilized.

Vice-President Burkhart noted Council member Kurtz stated his concerns with articles he read in the Lancaster newspaper over the past year and people being unhappy with the way Eagle Disposal stopped and started various service activities. He is also concerned that the upcoming new contract provides adequate recourse actions by the Borough if they do not meet their service obligations.

Manager Fulcher stated that many of the situations outlined in the articles concerning trash service and Eagle Disposal involved their services to individual property owners, not community trash programs. There were two formal bids received for the new period, which is four years, with three, one-year renewal options then available. Eagle's bid was \$179.28 per unit; the other bid, which was from GFL Environmental of Newmanstown was \$254.16 per unit. There is another group of municipalities who are set to open new bids in the next few weeks. There are numerous sections in the service contract that deal with possible serious deviations in service as contracted. These include under Section 3. 5(h), service deviations; 3.5.viii, missed pickups; Section 15, uncontrollable circumstances; Section 18, breach of contract process; as well as the Performance Bond. Approval of the contract is scheduled for Council meeting, so activities can proceed smoothly.

The members discussed the future need for a water rate increase to continue to properly maintain the quality water system the Borough has.

Manager Fulcher noted that even though the Fire Company has not yet met with the Inter-municipal Funding Committee, a small increase in the group's operational support is allowed for. Until he hears from the Committee and what the results of the meeting are, he is uncertain what the Inter-municipal's recommendation to its members will be until they have met. The formula basis facts are to be updated every five years, so it remains the most objective and fair basis for each municipalities' taxpayers to pay the municipality's fair share of support.

Vice-President Burkhart noted member Kurtz's comments about the funding. He feels this should come through the Inter-municipal Committee's discussions after they have met with the Fire Company Representatives. The Borough should stay within the formula; that way it is fair to all the municipalities. Its idea of how the Fire Company should be run and how much the way they run it would cost the Borough is not the way a municipality would address it and deal with accountability for public tax dollars. The Inter-municipal group has also provided special additional donations over the past few years based on the formula.

Mayor Bender stated he, like the others, appreciates the dedication and service of the Fire Company members but it also appears they proceed with things that are more expenditures for wants to get certain things rather than focusing on the basic needs of a fire company.

Member Glick inquired about a fire tax approach.

The members explained that though it is not necessary at this time, if the fire tax were used then the Fire Company's expenditures would be open to public scrutiny and questioning which they are not subject to using the current donation process.

Manager Fulcher noted that the proposed \$15,000 by the Park Association Board towards the costs towards the repaving of the lower tennis court, with the estimated Borough assistance of \$5,000 is to be confirmed by the Park Board at its November meeting.

The members then discussed the potential need to hire a certain amount of replacement and new police officers. As drafted, the numbers include one new

officer as well as the replacement needs. The Manager was requested to allow for one more additional new officer in the preliminary budget.

Mayor Bender stated he has asked Manager/Secretary Fulcher to add an item onto the Agenda he would like for Council consideration at the next meeting. He noted he feels he did not do a good job explaining his position on it during the first discussion. This is the consideration by Council to recognize the Borough officer serving on the county's Drug Task Force at the Detective level of pay under the County's system. This would only be while in his service with the county. As everyone may recall, the salary of the officer is reimbursed by the county. Both the officer and the Association are aware this is the only way it would be considered. He also asked the Manager to again provide him a copy of the potential Side Letter of Agreement as prepared by police consulting attorney so Council would have it available if it acted to approve this at its next meeting. In the future, the question would not be raised until the county determines that any future officer has gained the experience to be recognized at the detective level for the county. They have no set identified timeframe to identify them as a qualified detective, as each officers' background and experience would be different.

Vice-President Burkhart asked if the Mayor was aware if the Task Force had any other rank positions which could apply to one of the local officers provided by a municipality.

Mayor Bender stated he was not sure but he would check into it.

Member Morgan asked Manager Fulcher to identify the approximate additional cost to the Borough for the salary differential should Council approve this; and also if the county would reimburse the Borough for this retro-active to January 1, 2021.

Member Morgan then informed member Glick that he was told that the resident trying to raise issues with the Borough's finances, the Manager's position, member Burkhart's activities related to Council and so on at last meeting, was told by Councilman Glick to make these accusations and question those activities. He asked Member Glick if this was true.

Member Glick responded that the lady called him about Borough financials and he informed her to submit a Right-To-Know request to the Borough office. He does not recall ever telling anyone to question the Manager's position. He feels the Manager does a good job. He did not tell her to do these things.

Mr. Morgan thanked him for his response and noted that even though members may have different opinions and not always agree with each other, Council tries to work together as a team for the benefit of the Borough. These types of discussions should be held directly with each other.

Manager Fulcher noted that if scheduling falls into place following the police candidate interviews on November 2, Council should be able to continue its regular meeting to possibly noon on some day shortly after the Police Committee has completed its review and recommendations of the results of the Civil Service Commission, to possibly act on offers to potential new police officers.

There being no further business or public discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

November 2, 2021
Date Approved