

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Council
October 4, 2022

New Holland Borough Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: President Donald J. Herrington, Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, John A. Styer, Bryant J. Glick, Michael H. Kurtz and Michael N. Martin. Member Patrick K. Morgan was absent. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Mayor M. Timothy Bender, Police Chief William Leighty and reporter Carole C. Deck. Others in attendance included Borough water consultant Jeff Bologa of Becker Engineering and residents Lino Vescovich, Susan Burke, Doug Martin, Tom Plank, Bill Kassinger, Bonita Stone, Mike Fryer and Tom Curtis.

President Herrington opened the meeting asking for action on the Minutes of the prior meeting.

Bryant Glick made the motion that the Minutes of Council's meeting of September 6, 2022, be approved.

Member Burkhart stated he has a correction for page three, where the draft states that some staff of the Street Department came to him and expressed some concerns about their work load and additional rental inspection duties due to inspector Getz retiring. He noted it should state that some staff of the Streets Department had come to him in the past and said they were concerned that with former Rental Unit Inspector Getz retiring, they will be doing his rental unit inspection related duties and they are understaffed and too busy to do that. He feels Council should talk about possibly hiring another employee to check property condition issues.

Mayor Bender also stated that on page two under the Audit discussion, third paragraph; it should note that Auditor Carr stated he agreed with the Mayor's question (second paragraph) if he agreed with the statement that the Borough is in a healthy condition. With these corrections noted, the motion was seconded by Todd Burkhart and passed.

Mike Martin made the motion that the monthly Financial Report be accepted and the bills paid as prepared. This was seconded by Mike Kurtz and passed. Members Todd Burkhart and John Styer abstained to avoid any appearance of conflict with any business they may own.

Vice President Burkhart stated before getting into police matters, he wants to take a moment to mention the recent passing of former long-time resident Donald L. Welsh. Mr. Welsh served for many years on the Borough's Zoning Hearing Board but was also active in many other community activities. He spent time as Fair Parade Chairman, President of the New Holland Area Historical Society and started the former annual auction for the ELANCO Library; among other activities.

Chief Leighty then briefly reviewed his monthly Summary Report of activities in the Department. There were 316 total Incidents, of the 12 arrests, 10 were felonies or misdemeanors. There were two non-traffic summaries and two DUIs in the felony/misdemeanor count. There were 13 accidents, of which 5 were reportable; 18 citations and 5 warnings. Four of the five total juvenile contacts were sent to Juvenile Court; one to District Court. He noted the annual Farmer's Fair seemed to go well this year. Overall, it was a fairly quiet period for the event. As a reminder, the annul Shred It event with the Kiwanis Chicken Bar B Q is being held this Saturday at Community Memorial Park. Along with these activities, old TVs will also be collected and the Food Bank will be collecting non-perishable food items.

Chairman Burkhart then made the motion that Council authorize the Police Chief to place the order for a 2023 Ford Police Interceptor under state bid from the New Holland Auto Group at an approximate cost of \$35,475. This cost will be included under the 2023 Department budget as a replacement vehicle. He also noted that should this vehicle not be available in 2023 and a Dodge police cruiser became available, it would be purchased instead. It would be at a lower cost. This was seconded by John Styer and passed.

Chairman Burkhart next made the motion that the Chief be authorized to purchase the 12 remaining handheld radios needed in the Department, under the state bid program through B. Moyer Police Communications of Palmyra, at a cost of approximately \$38,302. He noted that similar to the vehicle to be ordered, the delivery is not expected until 2023. The cost will also be part of the 2023 Department budget. This was seconded by Bryant Glick.

Member Styer inquired if there were any closer local vendors for these.

Chief Leighty explained that these are a special type radio and the program utilizes only certain vendors.

The motion then passed.

Chairman Burkhart stated he wanted to take a minute to recognize and thank recently retired police officer Troy Deshong. He spent a good number of his later years assigned by the Borough to the county's Drug Task Force. For the past five months he also served as a temporary Detective.

Chief Leighty noted he was an excellent employee.

Chairman Burkhart inquired if Manager Fulcher could look into why the 100 block of West Franklin seemed to have been missed by those Fair persons responsible for cleanup.

Member Styer, representing the Finance Committee, made the motion that Council approve proposed Resolution #536; which is required to meet the new procedural requirements of recent Act 37 which provides for a simpler appeal process for payers of real estate taxes to appeal if they claim they did not receive their Tax Notice under certain circumstances. This was seconded by Todd Burkhart and passed.

Member Styer then stated that also this evening on behalf of the Borough, he wants to recognize the upcoming retirement in late November of long-time employee Irv Martin. Irv spent 13½ years as a police officer with the Borough, then another 22 in the Streets, Parks and Maintenance Department. He was a dedicated employee who provided good service to the Borough, and we wish him well.

Water Chairman Martin made the motion that proposed Resolution #537 be approved. This Resolution opposes the current state Senate passed version of Act 597 of 2022. The Resolution opposes the many additional regulations, controls and costs to be placed on publicly owned water or wastewater systems as well as adds additional state oversight and involves the PUC in the operations. There appears to be no justifiable need for it. Bryant Glick seconded the motion.

Member Burkhart stated this is the item initially discussed last month and he feels the Borough already does some of these things, but it also adds more. It basically is the big private guys trying to take over and control public services. Some other municipalities have taken the initial payout and sold, then watched as their residents' bills continued to rise. He feels any municipality which simply sells their systems is not looking out long-term for their residents.

President Herrington noted that along with the unnecessary additional regulations and control, a major factor for him is the loss of local operational and rate control for customers if a system is sold.

The motion then passed.

Streets Chairman Kurtz made the motion that Council approve Trick or Treat Night in the Borough for Monday, October 31, 2022, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This was seconded by John Styer. It was noted this is in coordination with the county-wide date. The motion then passed.

Mayor Bender reported the monies received through the Police Department the past month as: \$1,553.69 from the District Justice's office; \$75 from accident reports; and \$50 in parking fines. He wants to recognize the good job by this year's Fair Committee and those that worked on the parade. It seemed to be another good Fair event. Along with that goes the strong support of the police and Borough Streets Department staff that help it come off safely. This is similar to the recent successful Latin America Festival held with similar support. He also expresses his appreciation to retiring long time employees Irv Martin with his 35 years of service to the community and officer Deshong and wishes them well. He participated in the recent Constitution Day activities in September at the ELANCO Library. He also spent a few hours today meeting with and getting to know the new Superintendent of the ELANCO School District, Michael Snopkowski. He also wants to thank the Streets Department personnel for the placing and return of the signs in his neighborhood recently for their afternoon block gathering.

Manager Fulcher had no action items but thanked member Burkhart for mentioning former Zoning Hearing Board member Donald Welsh. He worked with him for many years when he was on the Board.

Resident Tom Plank of 214 Sycamore Lane then addressed Council. He stated the Borough's administrative people have been good in using its information system to keep people informed of unusual things but he feels the Borough should have done the same similar type of thing with the Frontier utility work now being done in his neighborhood.

President Herrington responded that Council shares the same frustration with the way Frontier's people proceeded with the work. It was not communicated well to the Borough or the people affected. As a personal example he noted they removed

a recently planted grass area on his property due to the work without letting him know.

Member Burkhart stated that Frontier is using a subcontractor, which is the one doing so poorly on site.

Member Styer stated he agrees this project was poorly performed.

Manager Fulcher reported that once the Borough became aware of the poor communication to the Borough and the property owners the Borough communicated with Frontier, which then referred to their subcontractor's manager. Though the subcontractor appears to be doing better, they have not provided information to the Borough which outlined their work locations, properties that would be more impacted than others and so on. They explained there was initial miscommunication between their company and Frontier at which time it was too late to do much about.

There being no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

November 1, 2022

Date Approved