

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 27, 2012  
7:00 PM**

The November Work Session Meeting for the Borough of Clarks Summit was conducted on Tuesday, November 27, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clark's Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were President Gerrie Carey, Mr. Herman Johnson, Mr. Patrick Williams, Ms. Patricia Lawler, Mr. Roy Davis, Mr. David Jenkins, Mr. Dominic Scott, Recording Secretary Virginia Kehoe, Jr. Council Mr. Gregory Johnson and Jr. Council Mr. Matt Remus. Mayor Harry Kelly was absent.

**1. WORKSESSION:**

**President Carey**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**President Carey**

Sara Doggart from Woodland Way spoke to Council about having a park in downtown Clarks Summit for children. She has discussed this with other parents and caregivers in the area. Mrs. Doggart mentioned the area by Lee's Denim Diner as a possible site for a park, possibly integrating the history of Clarks Summit with train cars, a tractor or animals that the kids could play on. Gerrie Carey suggested getting a committee together to discuss this with Council and see what is available.

- **Sewer Billing – Laurie Rosengrant:** Not available.
- **AAJRB:** Bill Risse, Chairman of the AAJRB spoke to Council about the diversity and the community involvement of the AAJRB. Mr. Risse discussed the finances and the direction that the Abington's want to go. Attorney Greg Pascale, Mike Hargrove, Marnie Palmer, Diane Vietz, Dori Waters, Marie King, and Michele Breslin introduced themselves to Council. Steve Sherman publically spoke about the Forever Young Fishing Derby. He would like Clarks Summit to step up and make their contribution, make sure this is a priority in the budget. Greg Pascale stated that as a taxpayer of Clarks Summit there is a huge difference in the quality of life to have these facilities available. Personally, he would put up with a tax increase to help fund this park. Mike Hargrove, Knapp Road, stated that he has been involved for 20 years with the AAJRB. Many grants and matching funds have been used to improve the park and the community effort continues to grow. Mr. Hargrove stated that cutting back the funds is going to be painful because all the work has been done is from outside the municipalities. This money keeps the park working/going and the volunteer effort is amazing. Diane Vietz, thanked Council for what has been done the last four years. Ms. Vietz stated that parks are more than a want; they are a need for a community. Stated many reasons, highlighting the needs. Cutting the budget leads to an immediate negative impact to the community. The Clarks Summit Borough's contribution to the park covers the Operating and Maintenance expenses.

Volunteerism is extremely important for the park. Partnerships, volunteers, donors have been crucial to offset the budget shortfall. Ms. Vietz suggested look into other options to raise money. Gerrie Carey stated that we need to work together to find a way. Marie King thanked Council for their support in the past, stating that the park is a vital asset to the community. Ms. King also stated that Clarks Green has decided to support the \$3 per capita in 2013 budget and they applied for grants. Clarks Green also has been supporting all of the paperwork, it has been burdensome, and their Solicitor has volunteered a lot of his time. Tim Rowland spoke about the soccer groups and junior football and cheerleaders have all raised money for the park. Mr. Rowland stated that the Clarks Summit Borough has invested money in this park. If Clarks Summit cuts the reimbursement to the park, the other Municipalities may follow. The park is an asset to the community, and to cut the funding would not be a good thing for the community. Bill Risse put together a fact based list for Council. Mr. Risse explained how the budget breaks down and supplied graphs to refer to. Mr. Risse stated that construction is currently happening for the field turf update. This is for the community to use, for families to use. Handicap requirements that come with the updates, smooth walkways for bicycles and baby strollers among others. With all of these improvements, the cost to the Clarks Summit Borough is \$0. A survey was available for the public to fill out. About 220 people responded. The response from the community was that the favorite part of the park is the lake and the walking trails. Community responded that parks improve their property value also. Despite difficult budget times, 175 people responded that the Borough should fund the park. When surveyed a majority of the people believed that \$3 is an appropriate amount per capita to support the park. The community is committed to the park. There were agreements set up in the 1970's that created a formal Joint Recreation Board and it set up formulas for funding and timetables for budgets and percentages. This is why Bill Risse considers this a government allocation as per the ordinances which the Clarks Summit Borough passed, not a donation. Mr. Risse stated that the Clarks Summit Borough created this Joint Recreation Board. They are an intergovernmental organization that this Municipality created when it passed its ordinances and the other four municipalities did as well. The allocation of the budget is done based on population; The Clarks Summit Borough has 28% of the population so they get 28% of the bill. If the budget is cut in half the park cannot operate properly. Gerrie Carey stated that they can all meet and find a way to make it work. Michele Breslin discussed all the work that goes into grant writing and the administrative work. Greg Pascale discussed how much work is really done by the AAJRB; the magnitude of the effort that goes into this program is incredible. Diane Vietz stated that volunteers come even from outside the community to support the park. A Meeting set up for Monday evening 12/26/12 at 7pm to discuss the budget. Patty Lawler commented on the value of the park. Ms. Lawler stated that the Borough is on hard times and they need to make a serious decision. The Borough is looking at cutting many other programs; this is not a personal attack on the AAJRB. Diane Vietz stated that it is the Borough duty to pay for the Operation and Maintenance of the park. Roy Davis stated that the Clarks Summit Borough has a declining population; the Clarks Summit Borough per capita income is not even 50% of the Boroughs in Lackawanna County.

Projected per capita wage tax anticipated, the earned income tax for 2013 is budgeted at \$590,000 down from \$650,000 in 2012, which is down from \$707,000 in 2011. Diane Vietz inquired about using the Senior Center more for AAJRB functions. Virginia Kehoe stated that the Senior Center is paid for from rental from Telespond and along with that rental comes restrictions on access. It's a liability issue. Nothing should be done without consulting the Board for the Senior Center.

- **Opening of TAN bids**

Virginia Kehoe read off the TAN bids. The first was from PNC bank, they offered 1.78%. The second was Fidelity bank and they offered 1.94%. Penn Star declined the TAN bid. The last is from First National bank and they offered 2.24%. The low bid is PNC bank; this will be on the agenda to vote.

- **Preliminary budgets:** See below

- **Ordinances 2012-13 thru 2012-17**

Ordinances 2012-14, 15, 16 and 17 all prepared and recommended. They involve authorizing the TAN, the millage, the sewer and the debt service. The sewer budget will increase by \$3.75 a month. David Jenkins suggested rounding the amount off to \$4 and that will allow for a cushion. The new payment will be \$47 per EDU. Ordinance 2012-13 is meter parking ordinance to permit parking permits. Permits will be available for purchase at a monthly rate of \$30. Herman Johnson questioned the enforcement section 7 that states that this can be enforced by the police and "any other public official." That should be removed. This should only be enforced by the police department. David Jenkins suggested having the solicitor to look into.

- **Resolution 2012-24 Pave Cuts**

This Resolution involves raising pave cut fees. This is all relating to the budget. Pat Williams would like to see a program set up to follow through on pave cuts. Mr. Williams discussed a pave cut that done on a state road recently. Virginia Kehoe stated that the Borough has no authority on this pave cut because it was made on a state road. Virginia Kehoe put in a complaint that was sent to the state. Herman Johnson discussed not having an ordinance passed that is not followed through on. Virginia Kehoe stated that the Borough is proactive, if there is a one-call there is a pave cut fee. Herman discussed the people that are not even making the one call, how is a pave cut fee enforced if the Borough is unaware of it? Virginia Kehoe stated that if we are not notified, we can't do anything. Mr. Johnson stated that the Police Department, Borough Manager, the Code Enforcement Officer, DPW workers should survey the area when they are out in the community. Ms. Kehoe stated that the Borough is making the best effort, and the Code Enforcement Officer is aware. Roy Davis suggested a memo from Virginia Kehoe asking managers of these departments to please be aware of any pave cuts that are not reported to the Borough. Ms. Kehoe stated that she would be happy to send out that memo. Pat Williams suggested moving some parking meters so the better paying meters are in to the heart of the town where they can generate more revenue for the Borough. David Jenkins suggested putting this on

the agenda for the Chief of Police to review. Herman Johnson stated that George Carros can make a suggestion and have the Chief of Police on board.

- **Abington Area Assisted Living**  
The Borough received a request from Colwell/Naegele (who is also the Clarks Summit Borough Engineer). They submitted this request on behalf of the Abington Assisted Living Facility; they are looking to put a facility where the Amici Restaurant was. They would be increasing the sewage flow from 12 ½ EDU's to 22 EDU's. South Abington Township and the Sewer Authority have already authorized it, but they need the Borough's ok because it will pass through our community. Need to vote on this next week.
- **Clarks Summit-South Abington Agreement**  
Virginia Kehoe stated that this should be an Executive Session discussion.

### 3. **REVIEW OF DECEMBER 5, 2012 AGENDA**

Additional comments: Herman Johnson inquired if a letter was sent out to Newton Township about Police Consolidation. Virginia Kehoe contacted them but did not get a response. David Jenkins suggested sending a letter to surrounding municipalities to see if there is any interest.

### 4. **ADJOURN:**

The meeting ended at 8:41pm

**President Carey**