

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 26, 2015
7:00 PM**

The May 26, 2015 Borough Council Special Meeting was conducted on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 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 Mrs. Gerrie Carey, Mr. Vincent Cruciani, Mr. Jim Klein, Mr. David Jenkins, Mr. Patrick Williams, Mr. Herman Johnson, Mr. Dominic Scott, Chief Chris Yarns, Mayor Patty Lawler, Solicitor Pat Rogan, and Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe

CALL TO ORDER:

President Carey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Lawler

- **Full Time Police Officer:**

Virginia Kehoe stated that this meeting tonight is just for the purpose of deciding on a full time police officer. Pat Williams asked about the third officer that he thought they would interview the other officer, what happened with that. Vince Cruciani answered that the third officer had a prior commitment and he couldn't meet with Council that evening. Gerrie Carey stated that the Personnel Committee had two candidates for Council to vote on. David Jenkins made the first motion on the recommendation of the Personnel Committee that they hire Kevin Yetkowskas. Pat Williams asked why he was making a motion; they were still talking about this. David Jenkins stated that they need to move the program along. Pat Williams stated that the Personnel Committee interviewed three people and they chose two. Herman Johnson then seconded the motion made by David Jenkins; on the question Pat Williams stated that he asked for the third candidate to be interviewed by Council, as the other two were interviewed by Council. Mr. Williams stated that he wants the third candidate interviewed, and why is Council making a motion when the third person hasn't been interviewed. The process hasn't been completed that is what he is assuming. The Borough Manager did reach out told the other candidate that a decision was going to be made and he was welcome to come for an interview prior to the meeting. Herman Johnson stated that the Civil Service gave them three names; the Personnel Committee interviewed all three people. Then the Personnel committee came to Council and only gave two names. The problem is that it's alright for the Personnel committee to make a recommendation but Council still should have the right to interview all three candidates. Mr. Johnson stated that at the last meeting, Council was discussing if they need one or two full time officers. Mr. Johnson continued that every time we want to hire someone or appoint someone, they were blowing everything out of proportion and he wants go get back to basics and follow the line of order. Pat Williams fees as though they are not following procedure on this. Vince Cruciani stated that Virginia Kehoe passed along an email to the third candidate who declined the invitation to come tonight to this meeting. Mr. Cruciani stated that he would have liked to see all three people interviewed for procedural purposes. Mr. Cruciani stated that he will be voting yes but he wants it to be noted that he thinks Patrick Gibbons was an outstanding candidate with exemplary temperament and the way he conducted himself is excellent. Mr. Cruciani stated that he challenged himself over the next six months and he will bring this to all of

Council he truly believes as October approaches and we examine the budget process we will be able to see that we can afford a second full time officer to be hired January 1, 2016. However, if we didn't have such a pressing issue, he'd say let's examine this in the next month or two, let's hire two at once, let's get the third interview. Mr. Cruciani stated that due to the pressing matter of hiring Kevin Yetkowskas, as he had that slight additional skill set of EMA and firefighting qualifications, which set him apart for the initial hire. Mr. Cruciani stated that Pat Gibbons is a great candidate and he will work with Gerrie Carey and Dominic Scott to try to show them how he thinks they can genuinely afford a second full time officer. Herman Johnson asked if they need to hire someone before July 1st to get this on the books. Vince Cruciani stated that if we wait until January 1, 2016 it would go on the next budget cycle. It's the pension fund that receives this credit; Virginia Kehoe stated that the MMO we get state aid to offset that depending on how many offers we have. Vince Cruciani stated that the pension fund is solvent now but with even one retirement that would make it insolvent. Virginia Kehoe asked Council President Gerry Carey with the motion and the second, could we have an effective date of that transfer of part time to full time? Gerrie Carey asked if it would be immediately or at the beginning of the month. The health benefits would begin the first of the month. June 1, 2015 or the most effective day that will work was recommended and David Jenkins stated that he would like to include that into his original motion. Gerrie Carey also stated that there is a 6-month probation period. Dominic Scott stated that he is not convinced that we need a second officer. He thinks we could afford one but doesn't know if we need one. He is going to have to be convinced, as of now he is against it. Pat Williams responded to Vince Cruciani stating that all of our first responders have those qualifications, he wouldn't single out Kevin Yetkowskas, and Vince Cruciani stated that he would defer that to Dave Jenkins as that was the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, that wasn't his personal opinion. David Jenkins stated that Kevin Yetkowskas is the only one in the police department that is a certified EMT. Pat Williams stated that the other young man was first with both of the tests and that is a perk also. Just as the other officer is an EMT this other officer was first with both tests. Mr. Williams asked what Mr. Jenkins' how he is going to respond to that. Mr. Jenkins stated that it just boils down to how you want to vote. Mayor Patty Lawler stated that she thought we were going to have the Executive Session earlier. Herman Johnson agreed and stated that what they are really talking about here is a personnel issue, which should have been in Executive Session. Mr. Johnson stated that they were there on this part to vote for a full time officer, not on personnel issue or qualifications. David Jenkins stated that he thought this was all ironed out because Council has had numerous conversations over exactly what they are talking about now. Vince Cruciani stated that the only purpose for the Executive Session was to interview the third candidates. The discussion over the other two candidates really hit a stonewall and it was just going to come down to a vote. Gerrie Carey called for the vote on the motion to hire Kevin Yetkowskas as a full time officer was done by roll call. Jim Klein voted no, Vince Cruciani voted yes, Herman Johnson voted yes, David Jenkins voted yes, Dominic Scott voted yes, Gerrie Carey voted yes, Pat Williams voted no and commented that Kevin, he is sure is a very nice young man but he thinks that in everyone's heart they know that Mr. Gibbons would be the correct choice. The vote was 5-2 in favor of Kevin Yetkowskas. David Jenkins stated that he thinks it sends a bad message to the incoming police officer that he doesn't have the backing of the full Council; he thinks it is a bad statement to make.

ADJOURN:

President Carey

David Jenkins made the first motion to adjourn, seconded by Herman Johnson, vote was unanimous 7-0.