

**REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2008**

President Koerbel called to order the Regular Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center; Flag Salute was led by Mr. Cindric. Roll call, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded all (9) members of Council present, as follows: Mr. Bloom, Mr. Byers, Mr. Christman, Mr. Cindric, Mr. Donovan, Mr. Ogden, Mrs. Sappie, Mrs. Viola, and Ms. Koerbel. Also present were Mayor O'Connell, Manager Sample and Solicitor Austin. *(No Engineer present.)*

**OPENING REMARKS – President Koerbel**

Ms. Koerbel announced the passing of Anne Perkey, wife of the Borough Treasurer, Nevin Perkey. She noted that she was known by many in the borough as a kindergarten teacher at Crafton Elementary School for many years; a memorial service is planned for Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>-11am, at the Carnegie Presbyterian Church.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mrs. Sappie, to approve the February 27, 2008 List of Bills. **QUESTIONS:** Mrs. Viola - #410.53 PSAB-Bertocchi; Civil Service Commission seminar; asked for clarification if this is offered because he is new. Mrs. Tremblay reported that these seminars are provided periodically, and are offered to all three members; Mr. Bertocchi is the only one registering at this time. #413.14 Building Inspection Fees; how much of this expense is recouped through permit fees – Manager Sample advised that the expense represents 80% of the fees collected. #438.22 Poly Pave – Expended for potholes; Manager Sample reported that this was for the purchase of cold patch; repaired potholes on Backbone, Ewing and other streets in the borough.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0); exceptions noted by Mr. Donovan (#410.24, #413.14).

**APPROVAL OF 2007 MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mrs. Sappie, seconded by Mr. Christman, to approve the November 28, 2007 meeting Minutes. **COMMENTS:** Mr. Cindric inquired if the Budget approved, noted on page two, was the correct budget; referring to Manager Sample recently providing an incorrect final 2008 budget to Council. Manager Sample confirmed that the proposed budget presented at the November 28<sup>th</sup> meeting was correct; that, last month, he inadvertently provided the incorrect Final budget to Council, but has since provided Council with the correct Final budget that was approved by Council.

MOTION carried by Eight Yes, 1 Abstention (*Bloom*) Roll Call Vote (8-1).

**APPROVAL OF 2008 MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Ogden, to approve the February 13, 2008 meeting Minutes, as amended. **COMMENTS:** Mrs. Viola requested correction to typo errors (Mrs., not Ms. Viola/2) and Ms. Koerbel noted a correction in the name of a citizen (Ms. Gallagher, not Ms. Madison).

MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Amy Kerlin, 52 Maplewood Avenue – Ms. Kerlin commented on a proposed Yoga program, on behalf of Lil Gallagher, requesting use of the community center, one night per week, and any fees collected would be donated to various Crafton organizations, such as Crafton Celebrates. She also read comments defining *what is a citizen/citizenship*.

**RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REPORTS**

The following written reports were provided in Council's Packet: ~~The Treasurer's Report~~, Financial Report, Act 511 and Trash Collection Fee Reports, Property Tax Collection Report, Police Report, Ordinance Officers report, REMs Report, Animal Control and Engineers Report.

**Fire Chief Report:** Chief Hermes reported that there have been some changes, using grant funds, including a fitness center, new compressor and fill station, and invited Council to stop by to check out the facility; also, an open house is being planned. Each breathing apparatus cylinder will now provide 45 minutes. Many improvements have been made in accordance with NFPA guidelines, which is a good thing but some of their standards and recommendations are extreme (ridiculous) and unrealistic. The NFPA is the National Fire Protection Association; made up of various committees who set equipment standards and procedures. Chief Hermes also asked that Council look at improving traffic situations at the intersection of Bradford at Noble, and Bradford at Stotz. Vehicles continue to pull up too close to the Noble intersection, passed the stop lines, and vehicles continue to pull onto Bradford from Stotz, blocking the intersection. Perhaps consider a stop sign at Stotz. Mr. Donovan inquired about safety control sequencing on the traffic signals. It was reported that it may be cost prohibitive and could not be adapted to the old traffic control boxes.

**REMS Report:** Director, Harry Meredith, reported response to 42 emergency transports in January, and 15, so far for February. He reported that the traffic light controls, installed in Robinson, where approx. \$15,000-\$25,000 per traffic signal, and would involve State permitting and approvals.

**Police Chief's Report:** Chief Rost reported that the department is currently going through mandatory in-service training. Also training, within the department, for use of the tasers; soon all officers will be certified in taser use and procedures will be put in place. He noted that, in addition to Bradford at Stotz, there is a similar problem at N. Linwood and N. Emily; he added that it is illegal to block an intersection. Ms. Koerbel inquired about a deer and hawk callout on the animal control report, and asked what the procedures are for calling out Triangle Pet. Chief Rost stated that a deer was hit by a vehicle on Steuben, and had to be put down, and a resident reported an injured hawk in his driveway, but the owner ended up taking the hawk somewhere for medical attention. He advised that residents can contact Triangle Pet, for dogs and cats. Mrs. Tremblay reported that, per the contract, Triangle Pet will only take call outs from the Police, particularly for cats. Chief Rost noted that the annual report is pretty consistent compared with prior years. He noted a decrease in vehicle mileage, at a fuel savings of approx. \$2,000., due mostly, in part, to the foot patrol.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor O'Connell reported that the department responded to 217 calls in January; referring Council to the written Police Report. She thanked the CVFD for the invitation to their banquet; it was a very nice event. She noted that Chief Hermes was given a 55 year award. She mentioned that Councilman Ogden has volunteered his time to help with the CVFD's physical fitness program. She noted some inquiries from residents on the condition of Backbone Road. Mrs. Sappie advised that due to a revised quote from Gateway for the paving at the bridge approaches, there will not be as much available funds for road repairs this year. Mr. Sample added that approx. 2 ½ ton of cold patch was put in place over the past two weeks; that we would need to save two years worth of road tax funds to do any significant paving project. Mayor O'Connell addressed the Chair, inquiry on the status of police officer hiring. Ms. Koerbel indicated that Council has not yet made any decision on whether to hire one or two new officers; applications are presently available and Council will be updated on the status at the next meeting; that oral interviews will be scheduled and an eligibility list may be available by the end of March, and ready to proceed with background checks. Mayor O'Connell also requested clarification regarding comments from Ms. Koerbel regarding needed improvements in the police department, as mentioned in January. Ms. Koerbel replied that she would look to clearer communication, understanding of procedures, and a

better understanding of department policies, but this has not yet been discussed by Council. Ms. Koerbel noted that it was nice to have the Chiefs available at the Council meeting for monthly reports; that this was the desire of the majority of Council, and looks forward to seeing them each month on a regular basis.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Koerbel reported that Council interviewed three candidates for special counsel, however, Council is not yet prepared to act on the motion appointing the Special Labor Counsel; so that motion would be removed from the Agenda. She reported that applications are available for police officer hiring and the application deadline is March 7<sup>th</sup>. She reported that Manager Sample will be attending the spring ALOM conference, and if anyone from Council would like to review the conference information to contact the secretary's office. A draft copy of Rules of Government has not yet been completed for Council's review and consideration.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

None (*Not present*)

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Sample reported that he had contacted PennDot for recommendations concerning installation of height-bars to deter tractor trailers on the bridge and other borough streets. PennDot did not recommend them; and advised that when seen by residents, they should call the police. Chief Rost advised that the fine is \$25. for a sign violation. Ms. Koerbel added that it a State violation; Mr. Bloom added that ½ of the fine goes to the State and ½ to municipality. Mr. Ogden suggested that legislators should be contacted and encouraged to increase the fine. Mayor O'Connell asked to clarify that PennDot did not say we could install height-bars, only that they did not recommend it. Manager Sample confirmed that, and added that the concerns were that the bars would continuously be hit and damaged.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Solicitor Austin had no report.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS AND OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Ewing Road Review** – The three options were reviewed and discussed. Chief Rost had no recommendations. Mrs. Sappie asked for a special meeting and that residents be notified. Alternating stop signs – hazard concerns about speeding and visibility with this option. Mr. Byers felt that Council should consider both Option 1 and Option 3; that the streets most impacted would be Fountain, Chartiers and Promenade, and the residents in that area would not be in favor of making it one way. Manager Sample advised that any change would be done by ordinance and would take approx. 30 days. Mr. Bloom expressed concerns with placing barrels rather than Jersey barriers or guide rails – that he foresees kids tossing the barrels over the hill. Manager Sample advised that we do not have any guide rails in inventory, and had concerns for the additional weight of a Jersey barrier on that road. Mr. Sample said Option 3 will definitely be done, probably in May, weather-permitting. Mr. Cindric, with regard to previous comments, noted that in addition to weight limit restrictions, there is a borough ordinance prohibiting tractor trailers over 28 ½ feet in length in Crafton Borough, with a fine of \$150 – this would be a lot easier to enforce, rather that weight restriction. Manager Sample would look into this, along with signage and enforcement.
- b. **2008 Paving Program** – Manager Sample referred Council to Gateway's letter; that the cost for the bridge approaches could be \$35,000 higher since this project would not provide a larger scale program; which does provide better pricing for materials and equipment. Another option would be to piggy-back with another community for some savings. The bigger issue, as mentioned by Gateway, is the concrete approach slabs that would need to be removed to gradually transition to the expansion damns. Revised cost estimates are being

prepared, including concrete rather than asphalt. The White Avenue parking lot may need to be put on the back burner, and costs for Ewing Road would be minor to the General Fund for asphalt, and the catch basin and sewer work would be paid for from the Sewer Fund.

- c. **Commission Vacancies** – Council has letters of interest, and there are motions on the Agenda to fill these vacancies.
- d. **Engineering Proposals** – Consensus of Council to interview Lennon-Smith, HRG and Gateway on March 19<sup>th</sup>; allowing one hour each.
- e. **Special Labor Counsel** – Discussion for Executive Session.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by to appoint Gerald McDonough as the Vacancy Board Chairperson.

**MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by to appoint Walter Kaminski as an at-large representative to the Crafton Recreation Board for a term that will expire on September 30, 2011.

**MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by to appoint Patty McDermott as an at-large representative to the Crafton Recreation Board for a term that will expire on September 30, 2011.

**MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by to appoint July Patterson as the representative of the Friends of the Library to the Recreation Board for a term that will expire on September 30, 2011.

**MOTION carried by Unanimous Roll Call Vote (9-0).**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by to appoint Mark Viola to the Building Appeals Board for a term that will expire on December 31, 2010.

**MOTION carried by an Eight Yes, One Abstention (*Viola*) Roll Call Vote (8-1).**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by to appoint Jeffrey Harlich to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term that will expire on December 31, 2010.

**MOTION failed by Five (5) No, Four (4) Yes (*Byers, Cindric, Sappie, Viola*) Roll Call Vote (5-4).**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by to appoint Linda Breeden to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term that will expire on December 31, 2010.

**MOTION carried by Eight Yes, One No (*Cindric*) Roll Call Vote (8-1).**

~~**MOTION:** I move to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ as special labor counsel. *Withdrawn*~~

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

~~**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by to authorize Gateway Engineers to prepare Bid Specifications for the 2008 Paving Program. *Withdrawn*~~

**COUNCIL COMMENTS/YEAR END COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mr. Ogden – Thanked residents for their participation and donations to the food Pantry.

Mr. Cindric – Reported that Council and other officials attended the COG dinner, hosted by Crafton. He thanked the employees for making the arrangements and food preparation.

Mrs. Sappie – Reported that the next Sr. Citizen dinner is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. She attended both the CVFD banquet and COG dinner; they were both very nice events.

Mr. Christman – Reported that the next Crafton Celebrates meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm; Committee members as well as Booth Chairpersons are to attend.

Mrs. Viola – Mrs. Viola thanked the residents for their letters of interest to serve on the various commissions. She requested to schedule Planning Committee meetings on the Wednesday evenings, opposite of Council meeting nights; 7:30 pm; excluding March 19<sup>th</sup> (set aside for Engineer interviews).

Mrs. Sappie added that she would also like to have a Finance/Budget Committee meeting at that time.

Mr. Bloom – Reported that being the representative to the REMS board, he will be attending their board meeting on March 10th at 7pm

Ms. Koerbel – Also, thanked those who helped with the COG dinner, and those who attended; including Chief Hermes and Chief Rost, and Mayor O’Connell. She looks forward to a Yoga program being offered in the community center for residents.

**ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ms. Kerlin inquired about the planned Committee meetings. Mrs. Sappie added that the Yoga program may be of interest to the Senior Citizens.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved by Mr. Ogden, seconded by Mr. Christman, that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary