

**COUNCIL MEETING  
Minutes of March 10, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Cindric called to order the Meeting of Crafton Borough Council, in Council Chambers of the Community Center. Flag Salute lead by Mr. Phillips. ROLL CALL, by Mrs. Tremblay, recorded nine (9) members of Council present as follows: Mr. Donovan, Mr. Grapes, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Pellegrino, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Sappie, Mr. Stewart Mrs. Viola and Mr. Cindric – Also present were Mayor Bloom, Manager Sample, and Solicitor Rob Brown (*Engineer not in attendance*).

**MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Bloom read proclamations for Eagle Scouts Jason Gerlowski and John Gerlowski.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Sappie*), to approve the March 10, 2010 List of Bills. **QUESTIONS:** Mrs. Viola - #404.31 Campbell, Durant legal fees – Mr. Sample advised that the invoice details various activity for contract negotiations and other personnel matters. #411.231-Hotsticks – Mrs. Tremblay advised that only one was purchased at this time to try it out, before more are ordered. Mr. Johnston explained how this equipment is used to detect if a downed-wire is hot or not; additional hotsticks are being considered for both the police department and public works. #430.37 Vehicle repairs, \$6,276.54-Manager Sample confirmed that these were necessary vehicle repairs as a result of the snow storm. #435.25 - \$789.59 Calcium-Magnesium-sidewalk salt; confirmed that these were for 50# bags. #486.81- Crystal Sound-\$685.64 – replace portable radio; Manager Sample confirmed that a portable radio was lost, and was covered under the borough's insurance, except for the \$50. deductible. Sewer Fund #421 – Robinson Pipe – Manager Sample confirmed that this is for Confined Spaces Training for three persons listed, which will be attended on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Sappie/Phillips*), to accept the February 24, 2010 meeting minutes.

MOTION carried by Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0).

**CITIZEN'S PRESENT TO ADDRESS COUNCIL**

Maria Murphy, 246 Noble Avenue – Reported that she was cited for placing stones in the utility right-of-way along the curb; placed there to deter cars/trucks from parking on the sidewalk. Mr. Sample explained that he has been in touch with Ms. Murphy, and explained that the ordinance is being enforced throughout the borough and he advised her that she would need to seek a variance, and to join in with other residents seeking a variance for the same issue. He also reminded her to attend the ordinance review meeting, scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> and she can address this issue and offer input to the Committee.

Rev. Bowen, 80 Bradford Avenue – Reported the upcoming public meetings at the Carlynton High School regarding the Feasibility Study; Wed. March 31<sup>st</sup> and Wed. April 14<sup>th</sup>, in the high school auditorium. Meeting dates to be posted to the Borough Website.

Mary Luxbacher, 71 Dinsmore Avenue – Thanked Eagle Scouts, John and Jason Gerlowski for doing their projects in the park, benefiting Crafton residents. She, and her husband, feel that NorthWest EMS is providing the borough with an extremely competent, professional emergency service; they have the manpower, equipment, the well-trained professionals and the speed to respond to an emergency quicker than anyone else in Allegheny County. She added that minutes do matter, and this is a matter of life and death.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

None (*not present*)

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS and NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **a. Administration/Personnel**

1. PELRAS Conference – Manager Sample to attend the conference at Penn State, regarding Public Sector Labor Laws-personnel manager training; attended last year and it was a very informative program. Conference fee is \$550. Will provide Council with a written report.
2. Resolution 2010-03 – Health Insurance Waiver This represents an Opt-Out benefit for employees not covered by borough insurance, which saves the Borough on Health Insurance costs by reimbursing the employee 50% of what would have been a 100% paid benefit for the employee. This item was discussed previously during budget meetings.

#### **b. Environmental**

Mrs. Viola reported that she attended a “Green Meeting” in Carnegie on Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, four speakers from Penn State, CEC, Burns & Scalo and President of Eisler Nurseries. Spoke on various Green projects; they noted that Green Roof would not be suitable for existing structures do to the weight load. Suggested Rain Gardens as an option, alleviates storm water going into the sewer system and creeks. Mr. Cindric added that he spoke with the solicitor for 1204 Corporation, owners of the shopping center, and there may be some interest in putting a Rain Garden in the shopping center. He also spoke to Ingram Council since part of the shopping center is in Ingram – there is a possibility of obtaining a multi-municipal grant if both the shopping center owners and Ingram would want to proceed on this project; and if grant funding is available.

#### **c. Finance and Grants**

1. DEP Grant – Manager Sample reported that a grant was received in the amount of \$36,500 for an industrial chipper; the borough’s cost would be approx. \$4,000. The equipment could be purchased within the year.

Finance – Mrs. Viola reported that, as a result of the winter storm, unanticipated costs were incurred for cleanup of damaged trees along Steuben Street, at a cost of \$2,950.

#### **d. Parks and Recreation**

1. DCNR Grant Application – A formal resolution will be provided later to Council to reapply for grant funding for the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan.

Mrs. Sappie reported that she met with the Rec Board; the first Senior Citizen dinner for 2010, possibly another Craft Show on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also, discussed the

mini golf course, encouraging groups to do fundraisers as the school students did this past October, possibly a contest for structure designs and hole sponsorship. She reminded everyone of the Crafton Celebrates/ Crafton Library Pot O'Gold Bingo scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>, and Library is providing a free Irish Concert on March 20<sup>th</sup>, featuring Caitsaigh.

**e. Public Safety**

1. Ordinance 1600 – Killed in Service Benefit – Manager Sample explained that this benefit was previously provided and paid for out of the Pension Fund; now it is funded and paid for by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is necessary to accept this change by ordinance since any amendments to the pension plan must be done by ordinance.
2. EMS Proposals – Mr. Pellegrino noted there is a motion to vote on this matter, based on the EMS presentations, and Councilmembers have been contacted by residents regarding this matter as well. Mrs. Sappie noted that some of the Councilmembers were not at the presentation, nor were any of the people in the audience, so she had prepared a comparison summary of the two EMS services, without identifying the entity, titling them A or B. (Copies distributed to Council, and audience; Copy attached to the Minutes). Councilmembers reported receiving calls for both providers, receiving complaints and praise for each. It was noted that with REMS, Crafton is given Board representation. It was the consensus that both providers are very competent.
3. Retirement Packages – A retirement incentive window is being considered for eligible police officers; approx. two or three, which will offer continued health care coverage which is not currently provided in the Contract. The advantage to the Borough would be a lesser salary for new officers vs. the salaries of the older officers. Also, a specific agreement and retirement incentive window has been prepared for Chief Rost, which is also on the Agenda for consideration; if accepted, Chief Rost will be retiring by the end of April.

**f. Public Works** – Mr. Phillips reported that with the forecast for a lot of rain, snow melt and possible flooding, sewer tops are being cleaned by Public Works. Also, noted that potholes are being filled with coldpatch. Manager Sample reported that particular attention has been given to the Bells Run/Chartiers Avenue area, and catch basins have been cleaned out. At Mr. Cindric's request, comments on the efforts during the snow storm were reiterated: The fire dept. volunteers worked in 14 hour shifts, with no pay, responding to over 100 calls, fires and wires down. They also took on cutting and removing downed trees since Public Works only had enough manpower to work on snow plowing. Over the three week period, Public Works overtime amounted to 256 hours, equipment rental and repairs, subcontractors brought in to assist, amounting to \$60-\$65,000 additional costs, over budget. Mr. Cindric noted that he had received some harsh criticism on the borough's efforts for the snow cleanup, and he wanted everyone to know what kind of efforts were put out by both employees and volunteers; that Crafton did the best they could, especially considering the difficulties with having cars parked on both sides of the street, in most cases, and in comparison to surrounding communities.

**BUSINESS AGENDA**

**ADMINISTRATION/PERSONNEL**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Grapes*) to adopt Resolution 2010-03, amending Wage Resolution 2009-19, to include a health insurance waiver option for applicable employees.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Viola/Johnston*) to designate the Borough Manager to represent Crafton Borough and attend the 2010 PELRAS Conference.

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

**FINANCE AND GRANTS**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Phillips/Stewart*) to approve the municipal recycling agreement between Crafton Borough and the Department of Environmental Protection for the purchase of a brush chipper.

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

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Donovan/Pellegrino*) approve and offer a retirement incentive window to Crafton Police Officers who are at least 58 years of age and have 25 years of continuous service; such retirement incentive is to be comprised of paid health care coverage as follows: First 12 months, 100% premium payment & 75% deductible reimbursement; Second 12 months, 75% premium payment & 50% deductible reimbursement; all remaining months, 50% premium payment & 0% deductible reimbursement for a period of up to 84 months and all other retirement benefits as outlined within the current Agreement between the Borough of Crafton and the Crafton Police Wage and Policy Unit.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Phillips*) to approve and offer a retirement incentive window to Chief Harold Rost; such retirement incentive will be as follows: 1) paid-up health care coverage for the employee and his spouse for up to 60 months or until employee becomes eligible for Medicare or such time as the employee and/or spouse becomes covered under another policy of health care insurance, 2) a retirement bonus of \$8,000.00 and 3) all other retirement benefits as outlined within the current Agreement between the Borough of Crafton and the Crafton Police Wage and Policy Unit.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Viola*) to adopt Ordinance No. 1600, being the Third Amendment to the Borough of Crafton Police Pension Plan, amending certain provisions of the plan by deleting Section 6.04, "Killed in Service Survivor Benefit", pursuant to the repeal of the Act 600 killed-in-service benefit in accordance with Act 51 of 2009.

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

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Pellegrino/Phillips*) to authorize the Borough Manager to begin negotiations with Robinson Emergency Medical Services to provide the Borough with Emergency Medical Services.

MOTION carried by Five Yes, Four No (*Donovan, Grapes, Johnston, Sappie*) Roll Call Vote (5-4).

#### **ADDITIONAL CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Crystal Boehm, Belvidere Street – She would be pleased with either provider, but she expressed concerns on choosing REMS over NorthWest after reviewing the comparison prepared by Mrs. Sappie, noting the number of fulltime employees of NorthWest vs. the part-time employees and volunteers of REMS, available equipment, ratios in the communities they serve, etc. Mrs. Sappie noted that Service A is Robinson EMS and Service B is NorthWest EMS on the chart she prepared and provided.

Bridget McLaughlin – Expressed concern over poor response times, taking over 20 minutes to respond in Crafton (a personal experience), responding from Robinson via Rte 60 with two-lane traffic, tractor trailers and school bus traffic, converging on the Thornburg bridge.

Mayor Bloom reminded everyone of the Shredding for Food project being held behind Giant Eagle in the shopping center, on April 10<sup>th</sup>, which will benefit the Crafton-Ingram Food Pantry. Visit the Borough website for more information.

#### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENT**

Mr. Cindric reported that an Executive Session of Council was held prior to the meeting to discuss personnel issues, contracts, and a potential litigation issue.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** It was regularly moved and seconded (*Stewart/Grapes*) that this meeting be adjourned.

MOTION carried by a Unanimous Voice Vote (9-0).

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Tremblay, Borough Secretary