

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2024
7:00 PM**

The January 2024 Borough's Special Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was held in Borough Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 304 South State Street, Borough of Clarks Summit, County of Lackawanna and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Council members in attendance were Ms. Gerrie Carey, Ms. Roni Lopez, Mr. Steve Guza, Mr. Robert Sheils, Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Mr. Frank Besten, Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe, and Solicitor Andrew Krowiak. Ms. Kathleen Simrell and Mayor Harry Kelly were absent.

1. WORKSESSION:

President Carey

Virginia Kehoe stated that concerning the flooding in September 2023, we have not heard of FEMA giving any money, but they have approved low interest loans with the SPA. Starting yesterday, the SPA has representatives at the Lackawanna emergency facility in Jessup. They will be there M-F and Saturday through February 15, 2024. They would answer questions and help people through the process. These are loans for residents. The borough has not been reimbursed for damages in town that were fixed at cost of about \$250,000.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Carey

3. DISCUSSION:

President Carey

- Ransom Twp police services: Ms. Kehoe stated that the borough's proposal to Ransom is assuming a new officer. As far as the police union is concerned there is no existing police officer who wants the job, so it would go to a new officer. But they are not willing to put that in writing. Josh Mitchell stated that they told Ransom Twp. that they would be billed at cost, if that cost is different then that is the case. We should be able to provide a decent estimate for year one. Eric Williams has expressed interest in one of these positions and he is a senior officer. That is a different price than what was quoted. Ransom made some changes to the language in the proposed contract. Solicitor Krowiak stated that in section E, which stated that in 5 years, either one can terminate the contract, he does not think that should be allowed. Josh Mitchell stated that he is adamant that they would not have any right for termination. Bob Sheils suggested that damages be assessed in case of a lawsuit. Josh Mitchell stated about staffing an officer for Ransom. Ms. Kehoe stated that if there is a point where one of the members decided that they want to take one of those positions, they would have the right to ask for it. Positions are available based on seniority. Josh Mitchell stated that the borough's intention is to have one single officer who is assigned to this patrol, but every time a schedule comes up an officer can say they want that shift even if they are not the person that was hired for that patrol. A senior officer would be able to take that position. Roni Lopez asked if the borough is obligated to give this position to Eric Williams, or would we still

advertise for this position. The borough would need to hire an extra officer either way. Officer Williams is not eligible to come back to work, we cannot hold the position for him because we do not know how long he will be out. Josh Mitchell asked if it would be best to bill Ransom or Newton the average of our full-time officer's rate. This way whoever is on, they are billed at the same rate. This information will be forwarded to Solicitor Joe O'Brien.

- Newton Twp police services: Josh Mitchell stated that as he heard from Chief Yarns, South Abington Twp. is also in talks with Newton Twp and they are providing a very different model than our borough is proposing.
- TCC – Bob Bennett: Ms. Kehoe stated that Bob Bennett is interested in being a representative with the TCC.
- Chair Vacancy Board – Bob Bennett: Ms. Kehoe stated that Bob Bennett is interested in being a representative with the Vacancy Board.
- Noise request – Shannon Brown: Ms. Kehoe stated that he has requested an amendment to the noise ordinance. He wants to remove the time restriction for the noise at a certain level. Frank Besten said that the noises in question are people playing basketball etc. He asked what he would pick-on next. He doesn't think this is reasonable. Mr. Besten thinks this is ridiculous. Kids playing basketball is innocent fun. He thinks this would be an embarrassment to the borough.

4. REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AGENDA

Virginia Kehoe stated that there will be more minutes available to vote on and there are 3 pieces of equipment that will be bid on and would need to be voted on. Bob Sheils asked about the trash billing. Ms. Kehoe stated that it is going well, people online need to be aware of online payments going to the correct link.

5. ADJOURN:

President Carey

EXECUTIVE SESSION: