

**BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 27, 2024
7:00 PM**

The March 2024 Borough's Special Meeting was conducted on Wednesday, March 27, 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, Ms. Kathleen Simrell, Mr. Frank Besten. Borough Manager Virginia Kehoe and Mr. Mitchell were absent.

- 1. WORKSESSION:** **President Carey**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** **President Carey**
- 3. DISCUSSION:** **President Carey**
 - Junior Council – Owen McVety: Mr. McVety is interested in being a Junior Council member. He wants to give back to the community.
 - Ransom Twp police services: Gerrie Carey stated that they were at a Ransom Council meeting. If Ransom did a 3 year contract and opt out for 2 years, they would have to pay \$50 a month in damages if they opted out. Solicitor Krowiak stated that there was an issue with when the officer's shift would be. Chief Yarns said that was fine as long as he has input. Steve Guza stated that the borough is spending time and resources training an officer, he suggested a 4 term, then damages if they opt out then. The concern is for an extra officer, and if Ransom doesn't comply with the 5 years, the borough is stuck with an extra officer. Frank Besten stated that union agreed that a senior Clarks Summit police officer will not be put on the Ransom patrol contract. He also stated that a \$50,000 a month penalty is excessive. Roni Lopez asked about lowering that amount. Bob Sheils stated that it will cost about \$140,000 plus additional cost with vehicles, plus a 15% administrative fee which would amount to an extra \$20,000 for the first year. Mr. Sheils wants the fee to be a substantial number. Also, with funds going forward, need to be considered. Bob Sheils and Steve Guza will not vote for a three year contract. It would not be worth it. The concern is making the Clarks Summit Borough Police whole if the contract is terminated after 3 years. Frank Besten stated that once we have a contract with Ransom, he thinks this will last a long time. He also stated that he is willing to take the risk with 3 years. Clarks Green has always been happy with the 7 years with that contract. The worst case scenario would be the borough would have to lay off a police officer if the situation didn't work out. Bob Sheils stated that Ransom has State Police coverage. He doesn't understand why they are negotiating this way, why wouldn't they go with the 5 year contract. It seems like they want a way out. The Clarks Summit Borough cannot take a financial hit from this.

- Newton Twp police services: This is off the table.
- Senior Center? – check with Josh: Josh Mitchell was absent from the meeting.
- AAJRB Replacement: June Burns will be retiring, Gary Rozman is willing to be the alternate. This can be voted on at the next meeting.
- Planning Commission fees – Butler’s Sunoco: Jenn Basalyga stated that the fees are very high with an application. The fee for this project, which would go before the Planning Commission would cost \$3,000. Bob Sheils stated the Planning Commission has to go through the entire application and the Borough Engineer needs to get involved. The applicant needs to pay for all of the expenses. If the application comes in, we would require the check amount. Council does not want to make any changes but look into this in the future.
- DPW Negotiations: The process will begin soon.
- Police Negotiations: The process will begin soon.
- Treasurer: The original person the Borough chose to fill the position declined. There was another applicant, they will be contacted asap.
- New Officer:
Bob Sheils mentioned “Rail Riders Day,” Council can look into this.

4. REVIEW APRIL 3, 2024 AGENDA

5. ADJOURN:

Roni Lopez made the motion to adjourn.

President Carey

EXECUTIVE SESSION: