

ABBOTTSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING  
MINUTES  
August 30, 2006

**CALL TO ORDER**-Abbottstown Borough Council special meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Samiah Slusser. Other members present were, Becky Fengfish, Debbie Shearer, Dale Reichert, and David Shuff. Others present were: Mayor Charles Stonesifer, and Toni Fenker, Secretary Treasurer.

**VISITORS**-Present were; Perry Shearer, Patti Sutherland and Mr. and Mrs. Miller.

**NEW BUSINESS**-Sami announced the resignation of Warren Moore as Borough Manager effective August 21, 2006, he will continue to serve as the Zoning Officer. She also announced the resignation of Toni Fenker as Secretary Treasurer effective September 12, 2006. She indicated that Toni would serve in that capacity on an as needed basis until the position was filled and that she would serve in an Administrative Consultant capacity for training and transition purposes and special projects as needed after the new secretary was hired.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**-Sami presented Council with a draft Strategic Plan and SWOT analysis; both are attached and made part of these official minutes. Council and visitors present then went on to continue to review and discuss samples of mission and vision statements. They decided upon the following Mission statement: "Abbottstown will provide quality public services in order to create a safe, family oriented, culturally inclusive environment while enhancing and preserving the unique and historic character of our community". Council agreed to work on the vision statement at subsequent meetings. The discussion then addressed Council goals including the square project, joining the Joint Comprehensive Plan, Bridge and road repairs and park improvements. Council directed Toni to contact Bobby Rudisill after the next Council meeting to ask him to clean up park debris and handle other maintenance projects that they would identify by the next meeting.

**BUDGET**-Discussion on a proposed budget for 2007 addressed the known expense for police services and a need to increase maintenance expenses, training, road and bridge repairs, and to add an expense for an Administrative Consultant. Council members were to think about capital projects they would like to see included in the budget. Toni was to prepare a draft proposed budget for general recurring expenses and distribute that to Council prior to the next meeting. Additional discussion addressed revising the current Zoning Officer position to include Code Enforcement and making the position part time as needed rather than having a set number of hours per week. A suggestion was made to consider having a Roads Committee and a Recreation and Parks committee to keep on top of maintenance, repair and capital project needs. No decision was made regarding the suggestion.

**ADJOURNMENT**-There being no further business, Dale moved for Adjournment to an Executive Session at 9:20 PM. Second by Becky and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Fenker  
Secretary Treasurer

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- Deleted: Samiah Slusser
- Deleted: Mayor Charles Stonesifer.
- Deleted: Sharon Myers, Borough Solicitor; Warren Moore, Borough Manager
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- Deleted: Patricia Sutherland, Pat Markosian,
- Deleted: Craig and Faith Peterson and
- Deleted: several other residents/interested parties unknown to the Secretary. Also present was Sean Hilliard, Evening Sun Reporter
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- ¶ APPROVAL OF MINUTES¶ Mrs. Shearer stated that the secretary had listed the wrong names in the minutes from the prior meeting of the citizens making statements about snow removal outside the Borough lines. She also stated that Steve did not open the floor for nominations for a replacement for Council Member Peter Hobbs who resigned during the prior meeting and insisted that the statement was inaccurate and should be removed from the minutes. The Secretary indicated that she disagreed, that the statement was accurate. Dale moved to approve the minutes of the previous regular meeting February 16, 2006 with the corrections regarding t[... [1]
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- APPROVAL OF DISBURSEME[... [2]
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### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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### **APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS 2/17/06 – 3/16/06**

Becky moved to approve disbursements for the following amounts for the period: General Fund Checking \$22,136.80; General Fund Payroll \$13707.94; Liquid Fuels \$528.40; Water Authority \$10,360.05 Second by Sam. Mrs. Shearer indicated she had a question regarding the disbursements which was not entertained due to the motion and second already having taken place. Four votes were made in the affirmative, Mrs. Shearer voted against the approval and the motion was carried by the majority.

### **VISITORS AND/OR CITIZENS' REQUESTS**

No visitors indicated any concerns.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 for the Water Authority meeting.

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### **MEETING RECONVIENED AT 7:27 PM**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Council reviewed the various pieces of correspondence listed in the agenda and noted that the Borough Auditors found no exceptions in the Year End Audit and

that they approved the use of the ball field at the Recreation Park by the Eastern Adams Little League scheduled to begin March 18, 2006.

#### **POLICE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

Sami reported on the various alternatives available for police coverage and presented Council with a chart detailing three (3) of the alternatives (attached and made part of these official minutes). Council discussed the possible offset of first year costs with Eastern Adams for equipment sales related to the dissolution, agreeing that was a separate issue and should not be a consideration in the decision. Council and residents weighed in on the comparative costs and coverage of the different options. Steve noted that the Hamilton Township proposal did not appear on the chart and Sami stated that it was an oversight on the Committee's part. Dale summarized the proposal. Becky indicated that her review of the Hamilton proposal revealed that the proposed contract was worse than the current contract terms and didn't bear consideration. Steve stated that it made no sense to jump back into that arena when the figures indicate that the cost was similar for less than 24/7 coverage. A resident asked if the officers were being guaranteed positions with Eastern Adams should the decision go that way and was informed that that was not the case and that Abbottstown had no say in the matter. Residents and Council agreed that the 24/7 local coverage by Eastern Adams was preferable.

Steve asked what the wishes of Council were, did they want to sit on it for another month before making a decision? Members agreed they had sufficient information to make a decision. Steve pointed out that Eastern Adams jurisdiction surrounds Abbottstown and their vehicles are seen in the Borough more often than our own. Steve invited a motion. Mrs. Shearer made a motion to send a letter to Eastern Adams indicating the Borough's desire to contract for services. Second by Becky and carried. Steve thanked the committee members for their hard work.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Steve invited a motion to appoint a new Borough Council Vice President. Mrs. Shearer nominated Sami. Second by Becky and carried.

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#### **INFORMATION FROM PLANNING**

Becky indicated that there was nothing to report due to no meeting being held this month.

Steve reported that the Secretary was still working on recommended planning and zoning fees, procedures revisions and new applications.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Steve informed everyone that the regulation of rental units has been tabled indefinitely due to other pressing issues at this time and reminded everyone of the schedule for clean up days. The Secretary informed everyone that one mattress and box-spring were permitted per household. Mr. Peterson questioned whether car batteries were permitted and was informed they were not.**

## **BOROUGH MANAGER/ZONING OFFICER REPORT**

**Mr. Moore provided Council with a written report (attached and made part of these official minutes) which he reported upon verbally. He recommended a change in the Borough ordinance requiring permits from \$1000 to \$2500.00 to be in-line with the new requirement of Adams County. He indicated he wanted to do additional research prior to preparing a resolution since some under \$1000.00 improvements would require permits and inspection.**

## **SOLICITORS REPORT**

**Sharon's report is attached and made part of these official minutes. She explained to Council that an ordinance would be required for the Borough to sell the Water Authority assets. Dale made a motion to have her advertise the ordinance. Second by Sami and carried.**

## **POLICE REPORT**

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**4/24/2006 2:39:00 PM**

**The mayor passed out the police reports and gave a brief synopsis of the status of the open cases and evidence disposition following the department disbandment. He responded to a citizen's question that the police files had to be separated between the two jurisdictions.**

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**9/6/2006 11:21:00 AM**

**TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

