

AGENDA
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
LOCATION – FORD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MARCH 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER Ray Klukan called the meeting to order at 5:59 p.m. and advised the audience that the meeting will be audio and video taped by Family Life TV. Klukan asked the audience to turn off cell phones and to go outside if you need to take a call.

Klukan asked if anyone is audio or video taping this meeting. There was no response.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Klukan led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL Rob Mohny, Lou Vergari, Ray Klukan, Paul Harmon, and Ron Dillard, were present. Mayor Mantini arrived at 6:03 p.m. John Lux is absent because of a scheduled vacation.

ATTENDANCE Solicitor Frank Wolfe, David Nichols - Borough Engineer, Zoltar Kupas, Bill Oleksak, Jim Smerick, Jerry Miklos, Brenda Vargo, and Kim Bish were also present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Klukan read the announcements. (Attachment)

MINUTES

Mohny made a motion to accept the minutes of 2-8-2010.

Dillard states a correction needs to be made on page 4 under Paving 2010. Should read Ford View, not Hilltop. Ford View was discussed not just Hilltop. Ford View needs tarred and chipped.

Vergari mentions there is another correction on page 3 covering the scope on the separation project. Should read 12th street to 15th street, 3 blocks.

Seconded by Harmon [with corrections]. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Klukan asks for a motion on the 2-16-2010 minutes.

Harmon states a correction is needed on page 3 and questions Nichols on scope of separation project.

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approved 4-12-2010*

Nichols states that the project starts at 12th street and ends at 14th street.

[Listened to meeting and minutes were correct as presented for approval.]

Harmon made a motion to accept the minutes of 2-16-2010 . Seconded by Vergari. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

POLICE REPORT Mayor Marc Mantini read the Police Report for February 2010.
(Attachment)

Harmon made a motion to accept the Police Report for February 2010.
Seconded by Mohney. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Harmon read the Water Report and announced the Water Reports are
available in the Borough Office. (Attached)

Mohney made a motion to accept the Water Reports.
Seconded by Vergari. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Harmon read the Treasurer's Report for January 2010 and the amount of
the bill list. (Attachments)

Dillard questioned why Mark Schultheis has not been paid. Feels there is
no reason to hold money. Does not understand why Schultheis has not
been paid. Feels the borough is negligent.

Harmon explained that the finance committee was under the impression
that Dillard was taking care of this and the bill would be paid once Dillard
reported back about repairs.

Dillard states he spoke with Mark twice and he understood he had work to
finish. Dillard states that Schultheis' men were instructed to meet with the
borough supervisor to discuss repairs. Borough has changed leadership
and Dillard is no longer in charge of street department. After speaking
with Schultheis twice, Dillard feels Schultheis knows he has work to do
and will do it.

Mohney questions if council is within rights to withhold payment since
Schultheis caused damage.

Dillard comments that payment shouldn't be held for minor things and that
Schultheis was not able to fix damage in time period he had.[snow]

Harmon reiterates that he thought the finance committee was waiting to
pay the bill until they heard from Ron Dillard.

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Dillard states that there has been a change in leadership, and questions
why the finance committee would wait on him to make the payment.
Dillard states he would like this bill paid.

Harmon states he will check into it.

Mohney questions when repairs will be made.

Dillard would like whoever is now in charge of street department to take care of this matter.

Harmon states he will take care of it.

Vergari made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for January 2010 and to pay the bills in the amount of \$48,423.93 as approved by the Finance Committee.

Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

ENGINEER REPORT

David Nichols explains Engineer's Report for March 2010. (Attachment)

Nichols completed and filed the application for the safe water appropriation grant and received paperwork to re-file for H2O grant which will both be used to fund improvements at the water treatment plant.

Nichols also needs the signature of John Lux on the prepared application for the NPDES permit. The NPDES permit is for backwash water to be pre-treated and discharged into the Allegheny River. Right now the borough is disposing of waste water from the water treatment plant without a permit. This application is Step 1 in a two (2) step process.

The Sewage Authority will not require an ordinance from the borough.

Vergari made a motion to authorize Council President, John Lux, to sign NPDES(National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) Part 1 permit application for water treatment plant.

Seconded by Harmon. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS

POLICE PENSION PLAN AMENDMENT

Solicitor Wolfe explains the amendment. Commonwealth pays for the benefits instead of borough being responsible.

Dillard made a motion to authorize the Council President and the Borough Secretary to sign the First Amendment to the Police Pension Plan.

Seconded by Vergari. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

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Mantini would like Wolfe to explain the insurance to the audience.
Wolfe states that spouse and children(depending on age/whether in school) receive 50% of what retirement benefit would be at that time. This is a state mandate and is state funded.

BOILER

Nichols and Harmon discuss to confirm that it is 1 boiler with 3

zones(cannot fit 2 boilers due to size of room).

Harmon made a motion to authorize David Nichols to prepare the bid specifications. Seconded by Mohny. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Mantini questions if there is any stimulus money to fund this project.

Nichols states that he is not aware of any program funding available for boiler replacement in a public building.

Mantini asks if anyone on council is willing to follow up on this.

Klukan asks mayor if he would follow up with this.

Mantini confirms he will make calls to inquire about funding.

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

Harmon explains water customers must be notified about interruption in services.

Vergari asks if this is a state mandate.

Harmon answers yes.

Nichols states deadline is May 10, 2010 and that Swift Reach is recommended by PA Rural Water Association. This service is used for notifying customers for water outages or water contamination. All phone numbers must be up to date.

Vergari questions secretary about minimum payment to company.

Bittner states there is a small fee to join and a charge of 5 cents per call. Buying data from Windstream is a one time charge.

Klukan concerned about customers that have cell phones.

Bitter states that customers were informed on water bills that the office needed phone numbers for the EPA notification.

A discussion takes place about price and terms of contract.

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Mantini states that this is an unfunded mandate. We need to get a good price on this. States some quotes were very high.

Vergari states that this seems to be the best deal.

Mohny made a motion based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee to sign the agreement with Swift Reach for the pay as you go subscription plan for the Public Notification System at a cost of five (5)

cents per call and to obtain the “scrubbed data” at a cost of \$130.00 for 12 month period. (Attachment)

Seconded by Vergari. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

REGIONAL POLICE FORCE

Harmon reads Planning Commission letter.

Harmon made a motion to form a committee for Regional Police headed by Tom Shaffer of the planning commission.

Kim Bish questions this motion. Feels best way to form a committee is to put out to the community to decide what is the best way to proceed. Bish questions if this has to be advertised and would like to leave Tom Shaffer’s name out of it.

Mohney and Harmon try to explain what council means to Ms. Bish.

Bish tries to explain the correct way to go about forming a committee.

Mantini attended planning meeting and told Bish that the borough needs a liaison to speak with the other municipalities. Mantini feels very strongly that we need to move forward on this.

Bish would like Harmon to rephrase his motion.

Harmon states that borough needs to form an authority in the near future.

Bish states that she totally agrees with a regional police force but states borough needs to go about this a different way. Wants to advertise to the community to form this committee.

Solicitor Frank Wolfe interjects to try to clear matter. Explains that his understanding from last meeting is that a committee of council would be formed, Shaffer will act as liaison to investigate interest from other municipalities. If people agree, then a governing body is created for the Regional Police Force. Shaffer would only act as a liaison.

Bish clarifies Wolfe’s statement and re-iterates what was just said above.

Mantini states that borough must make sure other entities are involved and that this is all new to council.

Bish feels that it makes perfect sense for the mayor to be involved and feels he should act as the liaison.

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reg council meeting Mantini states that he will be involved.

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Harmon made a motion to form a committee for regional police force with surrounding townships and boroughs. Mohney willing to second.

Wolfe states that this is all preliminary and that the borough cannot control

other townships or boroughs. Wolfe suggests Ford City form own committee.

Mantini states a liaison is needed to get input, the cost is a factor.

Bish comments that there are grants available.

Wolfe states that you can't apply for grants when you don't know what entities are interested. That is putting the cart before the horse.

Bish to Mantini - Bish is asking for a committee of council, feels Mantini should be involved, and concerned this is not a planning issue but a council issue. You can find money for Regional Police, grants are flowing.

Mantini agrees with Wolfe stating that this is preliminary.

Bish feels the mayor should be in charge of this investigation and bring a report back to council.

Mohney agrees with Bish but states Harmon, with the help of the mayor, is trying to find the correct words to form his motion.

Wolfe states that it doesn't matter who handles this.
Borough just needs a liaison to make contact, this needs executed.

Mohney made a motion to authorize council president Lux and Mayor Mantini to appoint a Regional Police Force Committee to contact surrounding municipalities about the possibility of forming a Regional Police Force.

Seconded by Harmon. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

ARMSTRONG COUNTY REC GRANT - 2010

Harmon made a motion to authorize the Council Vice-President to sign the Armstrong County Recreation Grant 2010 Application and Resolution as prepared by the Parks and Recreation Committee. (Attachment)

Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

BOROUGH MANAGER

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reg council meeting Klukan states that the advertisement will appear in the Leader Times once approved 4-12-2010 this week and once next week. Klukan reads advertisement.

Vergari suggests to put in Valley News Dispatch.

Dillard questions if there is a job description. Dillard would like job

description and would like to know the salary. Dillard states that this is not a line item in the budget and questions how it will be paid for. Dillard feels borough is putting cart before the horse. He states that if creating a borough manager job the prerequisites must be clearly outlined. In initial discussion, decided that borough would not hire someone off of the street.

Harmon questions if the job description is in the ordinance.

Dillard asks if there is an ordinance.

Harmon and Wolfe answer yes. [Ordinance 666]

Dillard states that he worked previously in human resources and doesn't understand why it is being done this way. Can't be done this way. People who are taxpayers should want the best applicant out there to run the borough efficiently. Dillard feels all of his concerns should be addressed before advertising. Dillard wonders what the rush is. Feels past experience is not stated in ordinance, borough ordinance is generic. Would like a qualified individual.

Vergari would like a manager that has some grant writing experience.

Harmon agrees and states ordinance must be changed. Harmon has looked through other borough manager job descriptions, some ads ask for degrees, money, and other information and some don't. (Wide Spectrum)

Dillard states this is a 6-person council decision. Line item in budget is needed before a manager can be hired. Dillard is still upset about the lost opportunity the new plant would have offered. Saw blame game between Ford City and County. Dillard states he blames everyone.

Mohney made a motion to table. Seconded by Vergari. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Klukan reads letter from Fire Department stating they would like the borough to add the fire department to the fleet program at no expense to the borough.

Vergari questions if the vehicle has been looked at and if it brand new.

Klukan states yes.

Wolfe asks whose name(s) would appear on title.

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reg council meeting Klukan states it would be titled in both names.

approved 4-12-2010

Wolfe would like the secretary to check with Rick Wolfe Agency to make sure there aren't any problems.

Nichols states the fire department would like to be included in the piggy

back program so that they may buy this vehicle for the best price.

Dillard states that this is a great idea.

Dillard made a motion to give Ford City Fire Department permission to purchase at their expense, none to citizens, titled under Ford City Borough. Seconded by Harmon. Motion Carried. 4-0 Ray abstains.

Mantini feels the borough solicitor should review this agreement.

Wolfe feels Lisa Bittner should check with Rick Wolfe.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

Dillard made a motion to participate in the Summer Lunch Program for 2010. Seconded by Mohny. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISOR 2010

Vergari made a motion to advertise for the 2010 Playground Supervisors. Seconded by Mohny. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

BOROUGH ASSOCIATION DINNER

Dillard made a motion to grant permission to any Council Member, Mayor Mantini, and the Borough Secretary to attend the Borough's Association Meeting on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at a cost of \$20.00 per person. Seconded by Vergari. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

REMOTE CAPTURE

Secretary Bittner explains. Bittner states that this is a three month trial free of charge. Cost would be \$85 per month for all accounts.

Wolfe comments that this can be terminated in 90 days.

Vergari questions if computers are capable.

Bittner answers yes.

Mohny asks if council has any other concerns.

Mantini would like to know what councilman Dillard thinks.

Dillard feels this is a good thing. States business world and banks already use this technology. Dillard doesn't see any major down sides.

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SUMMER HELP

Vergari made a motion for 90 day trial period. Seconded by Mohny. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Dillard would like to touch upon the fact that there are playground supervisors being hired and questions if summer help will be hired.

Mohny feels this needs discussed.

Dillard would like this matter placed on the next agenda.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jerry Miklos - Questions why Board of Health is not meeting.

Klukan states he has just found out about this matter.

Miklos states that himself and council have been at this since October and continues to be problem.

Dillard tells Miklos to ask borough secretary why Board of Health is not meeting. Dillard thanks Miklos.

Miklos states that it is required by law for Board of Health to meet and to advertise those meetings. Noticed meetings were not advertised until April.

Dillard tells Miklos to ask borough secretary, secretary is in charge of scheduling and advertising. Dillard states all public meetings should be advertised.

Miklos states this is the first time he has seen meetings being advertised. Questions why they are not meeting.

Dillard states council does not know.

Miklos asks if the positions for the Board of Health are going to be advertised.

Dillard tells Miklos to talk to personnel department.

Klukan answers yes.

Miklos states that last vacancy on Board of Health was not advertised. Member was appointed with no advertising. All openings should be advertised.

Dillard agrees.

Miklos questions if future openings will be advertised.

Klukan states yes and would like to look back at the last appointment and how it was handled.

Minutes 3-8-2010 reg council meeting approved 4-12-2010 Miklos states that last appointment was political. Miklos states should be advertised to give everyone an opportunity to apply. Miklos comments that it must be a qualified applicant.

Harmon comments that he saw an advertisement on the website and questions Lisa if that was the ad in the paper.

Bittner will check.

Miklos questions council if they received his letter.

Council states yes and Mantini states it was a well written letter.

Miklos asks when his letter will be addressed.

Klukan answers next meeting.

Dillard tells Miklos that the personnel department will handle this and he is not aware of who they are.

Miklos asks council if his situation was discussed in executive session as he was told it would be. (December)

Dillard defers answering to Klukan.

Klukan answers no. Tells Miklos it was not discussed.

Miklos - no, ok. Dillard said it would be discussed in executive session.

Dillard states that president leads meeting, what is on agenda is president's decision.

Miklos comments that's fine.

Klukan questions if Board of Health notifies council when there is an opening.

Dillard states that to resign from the board there must be a resignation letter sent to council. Once council approves the letter, the secretary is asked to advertise the openings.

Miklos states that as a past member, he was not aware that there were openings, that one person resigned and another was appointed.

Miklos states that one other aspect he would like to touch upon is the Board of Health at 5:00 pm. As far back as he knows meetings were at 6:00 pm. All other boards or committees meet at 6:00 pm. Miklos sees two potential problems with this. First it is difficult for anybody who works to attend the meeting. Second, it is difficult for anyone who works to serve on the board. Council may want to take this into consideration.

Minutes 3-8-2010 Dillard states that he served 18 years as president of zoning. At the time
reg council meeting he served, meetings were held at 7:00 pm, now they are held at 6:00 pm.
approved 4-12-2010

Miklos questions Dillard if there are any other meetings held earlier than 6:00 pm.

Dillard states that it can be constraining but there have been council

meetings and hearings as early as 3 or 4 in the afternoon. Meetings are scheduled due to availability of council. The President sets time and may not be fair to everyone. Dillard tells Miklos he must discuss this with council but as a society we are changing.

Miklos asks if council understands his points.

Klukan answers yes and asks Miklos if there is anything else.

Miklos - Yes, one other thing in regard to the Borough Manager position. Now and as a past council member has felt borough needed a good man to operate day to day activities and future activities of town. It is difficult for elected people. Miklos states borough needs to find a way to pay for it. Feels some past expenditures were unnecessary and that some of the money could have been used towards hiring a borough manager. Borough needs to watch purse strings. Miklos is concerned about councils tendency to make political decisions. Miklos suggests that a committee be formed to interview potential candidates. Ford City has a lot of people who are experienced at hiring.

Dillard states that it is council's prerogative. Dillard feels this council has the ability to make a decision.

Miklos states that this is just a suggestion and that the committee could bring recommendations to council for top 2 or 3 candidates.

Dillard reiterates that this council has the ability to make the decision.

Miklos - Enough said.

Kim Bish questions who on council has read the borough code. Bish urges all council members to read borough code so that they may make informed decisions.

Bish also questions enforcement of landlord - tenant. Bish paid but has not received her license. Secretary told her office was waiting for special paper to send them out.

Bish questions how enforcement officer, police department, and borough is keeping track of any calls about tenants. Questions if any fines are associated with enforcement of this ordinance. Have not seen one yet. Bish tells council about a woman up the street who had to move from her apartment due to rowdy neighbors. The police were called 3 times but there was nothing done. How is this all being recorded. Questions if that landlord even paid the fee. Questions where data is being kept or recorded and whether it is public record since police reports are public record.

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Wolfe states that not all police records are public information. Supposed to complete paperwork for each incident. If police are not following procedure thank you for bringing this to our attention. We will look into this.

Bish states that the apartment building she referred to above is a three unit apartment building and several calls were made to the police with no relief. Questions if Abernathy is the enforcer of the Landlord -Tenant ordinance.

Wolfe states that this will be looked into.

Mantini states that there are federal, state, and local laws to follow. The Landlord -Tenant ordinance has finally passed, this is all new to us. Form has been drafted and given to codes officer and borough secretary. Will provide copies for council and Ms. Bish.

Bish asks if a regular police officer is to complete form or are they to give to Abernathy to complete.

Mantini will inquire and get back to Ms. Bish.

Bish questions why borough is closed for lunch. Bish feels there is no reason to be closed for lunch now that there is a third secretary. Lunches can be rotated, secretaries should be cross-trained and if they aren't they should be. This issue should be addressed, it is just common business sense. Borough need to operate like a business. Bish asks for this to be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting. Bish agrees with Dillard that when discussing the borough manager the cart is being put before the horse. Bish feels there is a definite need for a borough manager. Borough manager needs to be someone who is able to do the job. Currently supervisor of the street department is in the union. Bish feels that council needs to change the way they run this town. Bish urges council to draft a job description before advertising this position.

Harmon agrees and feels this position will save the town money.

Bish asks if the borough manager will be in charge of the street department once Pete Milito retires.

Harmon yes.

Dillard states he is old school and that this town at one time was designed with correct hierarchy, problem is that a previous council neglected to do what was required to do and played politics.

Bish asks Dillard if borough manager position can be a non-union position.

Minutes 3-8-2010 Dillard answers yes.

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approved 4-12-2010(Kupas states that council was presented with a law that 2 board members were not allowed to attend meetings or vote. Only presented with half of the information. PMAA states that the two members are legal members until dually replaced or reappointed. Kupas states he was just at a symposium where he spoke with the state attorney, he agrees that the

members are able to perform their duties. Please justify in the minutes.

Dillard feels this board should quit playing politics and get to the business of running this town. We have a lot of half truths by many council people. Bottom line is if you are here for personal decisions, here for wrong reason. Council is to serve community. If honest, can make hard calls. Doesn't have to be personal and that is where the problem is. When board moved together two years ago made decisions about council people being part of other organizations, seems like we are going backwards. If you are doing your job as a councilperson you do not have time to be on another board.

Bob Ware tells council about going to borough office for application for sewage authority. States that there was an advertisement in the paper for sewage authority and asks council if they are still looking for applicants. Submitted a letter after was told at office there was no application. Upset about treatment he received. Ware has not heard anything about interviews.

Harmon yes.

Mohney states that council has not conducted any interviews yet.

Mantini apologizes to Bob Ware for treatment he received.

Ware feels Mantini should not apologize.

Dillard states personnel board will notify when interviews will be done. Dillard states needs to conduct as a business, you are not the first individual that has expressed concern. If there is an application it can't go on for 6 weeks. People sitting to my left need to work on this. These gentleman work and it is tough road. Ford City Borough is in the toilet as far as running as a business and the paperwork. Dillard apologizes since he is part of this council.

Marlene Szymanski questions if there can be a copy put out of who paid the landlord fee and who didn't.

Dillard feels it is under right to know act and should be available.

Bish comments try getting it.

Wolfe states he doesn't know if the borough even has that document. Someone has to generate this.

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reg council meeting Bish feels that the document should exist.

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Harmon states that it is in quickbooks.

Bish asks about \$15 dollars that was overpaid last year. States that it was forgotten about since Shaffer is not on council anymore.

Szymanski asks if not renting out property does the fee still have to be paid.

Dillard states no. If used for rental property still have to be paid.

Bish states that it is an annual fee.

Dillard states that if he is planning on renting in future, he has to pay.

Brenda Vargo asks if access data base can be set up for this. States she can help.

Dillard comments that if Vargo is willing to donate time, meet with council president and vice-president.

Klukan states that a paper must be signed to speak at meeting.

Mark Schultheis states he put roof on borough building. March 2009 bid was awarded delivered material in Aug 2009 roof was completed and last invoice was September 30. Received a letter from Mr. Dillard on 01-06-2010 stating roof had a leak caused by the materials we had set on the roof. That day sent people down to check out but no one at garage knew anything about it. At borough building ran into Ron Dillard and was told had to get in touch with Pete. The big snow storm came and couldn't do a lot of things. Sent a registered letter to the borough. There is a physical contract signed by John Lux and Lisa Bittner. Should have received payment 30 days after job was completed. Questions how borough can hold \$12,000 due to a roof leak. Questions how old the roof is More disturbing, borough told Dillard bill was paid.

Dillard states read Schultheis' letter today. Holes are minor, no reason that you should not have been paid. No excuse.

Harmon & Mohny state that he was not paid by prior borough council.

Dillard states that it should have been paid before new council.

Mohny states it should have been paid in 2009.

Schultheis went to Senate Engineering and questioned how can he be told about a a leak 6 months after it was done.

Mohny states that this will be looked into and the gentleman will be paid.

Minutes 3-8-2010 Mark Parella questions if a time-management study is going to be done reg council meeting when the borough manager is hired.

approved 4-12-2010
SOLICITOR COMMENTS

Solicitor Wolfe would like an Executive Session.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Thanks to the borough secretary for letting me know about Marissa Wolfe achieving Freshman Player of week in the big 10. Concerned about dog waste on trail, will be issued a high fine. Parks and Recreation Committee doing a commendable job.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Dillard is concerned with loss of jobs that occurred at the former Eljer Property. Dillard is irritated and feels borough needs to form a committee to find out what went wrong. Need answers and don't have them. If it is an environmental problem, there is a potential for others to have difficulty with this issue. No one has been able to say what that environmental problem was. Can't point fingers at county and not point fingers at yourself. Have had 2 businesses that have not come here. We must have industry, we must have business, we must have opportunity. Don't see that happening because we can't agree to disagree and move forward. Dillard is very hurt about the whole issue. It is a shame that Armstrong County is in the position it is in. Need to help one another and quit pointing fingers.

Vergari states that he received a call from a resident where mother put her house in his name. When called borough was told he had to pay. Checked definition of a landlord. This ordinance is to control tenants, not to make borough money. Feels a meeting is necessary to make amendments to this ordinance.

Mohney states he is here to work. There is a learning curve, takes time. Feels egos need to be left at the door.

Harmon thanks Klukan for running meeting and states that he did a for good job.

Klukan states he agrees with Mayor Mantini about the dog excrement on the trail. This issue may cause council to ban dogs from trail

ADJOURNMENT

Harmon made a motion to adjourn meeting and go to executive session. Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

John M. Lux
President

Lisa Bittner
Borough Secretary

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