

**Borough of Somerset Committee of the Whole
December 11th, 2017 5:00 p.m.**

Meeting was called to order by President Ruby Miller, opening with recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call:

Council Members present: Ruby Miller; Fred Rosemeyer; Judy Pyle; Pam Ream; Sue Opp; Steve Shaulis; and Gary Thomas. Mayor Scott Walker also present.

Absent was Junior Council Member Maria Weimer.

Also present were the following: Borough Manager, Michele Enos; Director of Finance, Brett Peters; Chief of Police, Randy Cox; Solicitor James Cascio; and Consulting Engineers, Tom Reilly and Jake Bolby.

Announcements:

(a) *None*

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

(a) *All minutes are approved at the regular Council Meeting.*

General Public Comments:

(a) *None Registered.*

Policy Agenda:

Old Business:

(a) *None*

Executive Session – *To discuss personnel matters.*

New Business:

(a) *Request Form Submitted by Council Member Ream:*

1. *Would like to discuss any issues or concerns from Council members in regards to utilizing B. Vinzani as a consultant in lieu of an Assistant Manager.*

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved, motion seconded by Mr. Thomas to move into Executive Session.

Motion Unanimously Carried
5:02 pm

Council back in regular session at 5:34 pm

(b) Request Form Submitted by Manager Enos:

1. Tax Rate Ordinance for 2018 – Discussion.

Ms. Enos mentioned that if the Tax Rate changes, then we are required to advertise that change. She stated that this has already been done. Ms. Enos stated that Council has to pass the Ordinance establishing the ½ mill increase that we have incorporated in the 2018 Tax Rate Ordinance. It will come to a formal vote, for approval, at the next Council Meeting.

2. Adoption of Final Budgets for 2018 – Discussion.

Ms. Enos explained that the Adoption of Final Budgets for 2018 will also appear at next week's Council Meeting. She stated that this is everything that has been discussed in the last 3 months. This includes the Operating Budgets and Capital Budget. The final adoption is scheduled to be set next week's Council Meeting.

3. Appointments/Reappointments to various Boards and Commission – Discussion.

She stated that each year, effective January 1st, we always have vacancies to our Boards and Commissions. We have terms expiring for the Municipal Authority; Planning Commission; Zoning Hearing Board; UCC Code Appeals Board; Civil Service Commission; and Vacancy Board. She stated that this will also be included on next week's Agenda. The effective dates will not apply until January 1, 2018.

4. Letter from Senator Stefano – Discussion concerning Act 42.

Ms. Enos stated we received a letter from Senator Stefano concerning Act 42. She stated that this is something Governor Wolf signed into Law House Bill 271. It was passed by the General Assembly. She stated that the Act 42 is concerning Gaming License. Ms. Enos stated that Municipalities who *do not* want to participate in a potential casino coming in, have to officially "opt-out" by Resolution before the end of this year. If Council *does not* want to be considered one of the Municipalities for a casino, then we have to pass, by Resolution, to "opt-out." By "opting-out" the Borough

will be removed from being considered in the potential casino process. Discussion was held among Council on this subject. It was decided upon by Council *not* to “opt-out.”

(c) Donation Requests:

1. Humane Society of Somerset County - Requesting us to consider a donation for year 2018.

Mrs. Miller stated that this will be considered on the Agenda at the next Council Meeting.

(d) Year to Date Financial Report – Provided through the month of November 2017.

Mr. Peters distributed the information for the Year to Date Financial Reports through November 2017 to Council. Mr. Peters explained the new format on the Financial Reports. He mentioned that we are 91.67% of the way through the year. The following Funds Revenues and Expenditures are based through the month of November 2017:

General Fund: Revenues – 95.79%; Expenses – 86.21%
Water Revenue Fund: Revenues – 144.63%; Expenses – 130.46%
Sewer System Operating Fund: Revenues – 87.48%; Expenses – 85.68%

Mr. Peters stated that if Council had any questions, to reach out to him, and he would try to address them as best as he could.

(e) Manager’s Report - Reports distributed to Council for all departments for the Month of November 2017.

(f) President’s Report - Given by Ruby Miller.

Mrs. Miller thanked Steve Shaulis and the Fraternal Order of Eagles for all the Christmas lights, and stated that they were beautiful.

(g) Somerset Inc. Report - Given by Judy Pyle.

Mrs. Pyle stated that all their events were a success, but the traffic control was chaotic. She stated that they need to do something to handle this problem, because she was the only volunteer who showed up to help in this regard. It was mentioned that they need to find volunteers earlier in the planning of these events. Mrs. Pyle stated that if anyone had any ideas, or suggestions, on how to go about getting volunteers that are devoted to the community, and always dependable, she would welcome the suggestions. A resulting discussion, among Council, was held on this issue.

(h) Somerset Volunteer Fire Dept. Report - Given by Steve Shaulis.

Mr. Shaulis mentioned that they had a total of 29 calls for November. He stated that with their year starting on October 1st, it takes the total number of calls, since October, up to 56 so far.

Mr. Shaulis stated that the Cash Calendars are still on sale.

He mentioned that the Fire Department has one more meeting coming up where they will nominate Officers. He stated that as of right now, it looks like the current Officers will remain the same for next year.

Mr. Shaulis also mentioned that the Fire Department's Annual Banquet will be on January 5, 2018.

(i) Engineer's Report - Given by Jake Bolby.

Mr. Bolby stated that the only thing they have outstanding now is a permit relating to the Sewage Treatment Plant. He stated that this permit is to modify an existing permit. He stated that this permit cycle is every 5 years.

Mr. Bolby also stated that they have been providing support on normal tasks with permits and projects. He also stated that they are ready to go into the next year with the list of projects that are developed in the budget.

Adjournment

Motion

Mrs. Opp moved to adjourn, motion seconded by Mrs. Ream

Motion Unanimously Carried.

6:16 p.m.

Michele A. Enos, Borough Secretary