

Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting December 8, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Business Meeting of Oakmont Borough Council was called to order at 7:05 PM by President Federici.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All those who were present and able stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Calabrese, Favo, Kennedy, Ride, Taliaferro, Zentgraf and President Federici; Mayor Fescemyer; Attorney Shawn Gallagher; Chief DiSanti; and, Assistant Borough Secretary Jensen

Excused: Interim Borough Manager Mator

Visitors: Jack H. Artman, David Brownlee (arr. 7:25 PM), Joanne Brownlee (arr. 7:25 PM), George Coulter, Donna DeTurck, F. R. Favo, Arlene Loeffler (arr. approx. 7:30 PM), Tom Meising, Sue Martin, Matt Mehalik, Cary Mostel, Melony Mostel, Craig Olson, Richard Panza, Robetta Panza, Bill Peoples, Michele Poppa (arr. 7:24 PM), Gene Rebyanski (7:24 PM), Ray Rogers, Jr., Ray Rogers, Sr., Bertha Shearer, Paul Walton, Rich Williams, Karen Zapf (arr. 7:10 PM) and Bob Zentgraf

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2009 Budget/Millage Increase – Prior to going to Item 5. “Comments from the Public” on the Agenda, President Federici read a statement commenting on citizens’ curiosity, concerns and inaccuracies about the upcoming Borough Budget and proposed millage increase for 2009. He said everyone who wished to do so would be given the opportunity to speak that evening on the 2009 Budget.

He said he would be making further comments on the 2009 Budget prior to the Budget Ordinance being read on First Reading.

Executive Session – President Federici announced that Council had met in Executive Session before that evening’s Regular Business Meeting to review legal matters, and would be continuing the Executive Session after this meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

2009 Budget/Millage Increase – At that time, President Federici opened up the floor. Mr. Matt Mehalik, 618 Fourth Street, said he was in favor of passage on the proposed budget. Bertha Shearer, 29 Morris Street, was also in favor of passage. Sue Martin, 621 Twelfth Street, felt that some maintenance items mentioned in the budget could be deferred. She added that she had looked at the taxes obtained from properties at the Summit and was surprised to find that not much tax money came from there. George Coulter, 1301 Summit Drive, thanked Council for their support of the Library, noting that there was

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more and more activity there. He said he had looked at the budget “as a business man” and wanted to know if previous years’ budgets had been looked at in preparation for the 2009 Budget. He was assured that they had.

INTERIM BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT

Interim Manager’s Report – President Federici then requested that the following statement from excused Interim Borough Manager Daniel Mator be read into the record:

First, to everyone in attendance, I would like to extend my deepest apologies for not being able to attend this evening. Though I would have liked to have been there for this very important meeting, my health, and the health of those I would be in contact with has to take precedence, especially with the holidays and family get-togethers so near.

I have a message regarding the budget later in the meeting, but these are some other items of interest for the past month:

The Website is about to be finally overhauled. The Borough will be entering into an agreement with an Oakmont designer to revamp the site. The cost came in very reasonable, and the designer being local will be an added asset. No timetable has been set for completion, but we are anticipating a January/February ‘go live’ date, with a hopeful January 1st date.

As you’ll see on the agenda, the Borough is moving to replace its 1997 Public Works truck with a new one. This has been in the works for years and is a welcome addition.

Leaf pick-up is nearly complete and the Public Works department deserves commendation for the job they did. Leaf pick-up in Oakmont Borough is a never-ending autumn task, and the rounds can take an insufferable long time to complete. We would also like to thank the citizens for their patience as our workers made those rounds.

As anyone who lives in Oakmont knows, we have a storm water catch basin problem. They are old and deteriorating, and some have fallen into such disrepair as to become hazardous. Though the Borough is making an intense effort to remedy these defects in its 2009 budget, we are pleased to announce that two of the worst catch basins in the town will be rebuilt this month.

I thank you, Mr. President, and would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season.

MAYOR’S REPORT

November Monthly Report - At Mayor Fescemyer’s request, Police Chief DiSanti reviewed portions of his November 2008 Police Report for those present.

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Mayor Fescemyer said that 421 calls had been answered by officers that month, and thanked Council for approving the addition of another full-time police officer to the force.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

President Federici redirected those present back to Item 4, "Registered Comments from the Public" on the Agenda, to permit a registered speaker who had arrived late to speak.

Third Street Petition – Gene Rebyanski, 731 Third Street, asked about the status of Third Street residents' petition to make Third Street one-way, from Archie Street to Pennsylvania Avenue. He stated that all Third Street residents were "100%, totally for" the one-way street.

President Federici referred the petition to the Public Safety Committee and Police Department for review and recommendation.

Speed Bumps – Ms. Zentgraf commented on Mr. Rebyanski's previous and contradictory requests before Council to first install additional speed bumps on Third Street, and then to remove the existing speed bumps on Third Street. She said it was not the practice of Council to install speed bumps and that, in fact, the specifications for the 2009 Paving Projects would include the removal of any speed bumps on Borough streets.

President Federici noted that Mr. Rebyanski had petitioned Council in January, stating that the residents wanted additional speed bumps along Third Street, and then said the residents wanted the speed bumps removed at a later date.

Michele Poppa, 721 Third Street, said there was a "pinch point" on Third Street because of the cars parked along the street. She said, "It's insane, the traffic down there."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial and Legal Committee

Warrants – Ms. Ride moved to approve the Warrant List for November 2008, dated December 8, 2008, including expenditures totaling:

<i>Fund</i>	<i>Amount</i>
General Fund	\$241,527.27
Library Fund	\$103,561.45
Sewer Fund	\$140,573.96
Capital Fund	\$118,917.48
Kerr Memorial Museum Fund	\$13,047.79
Boulevard Project Fund	\$3,803.42
Sewer Construction Fund	\$27,029.02

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Ordinance No. O38-2008, 2009 Budget – President Federici said that at that time, before Council moved on to No. 9b. of the Agenda, he wanted to offer some "budget overview" remarks in an effort to address both the budgeting

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process generally, and then this year's 2009 Borough Budget process specifically.

President Federici read a prepared statement saying that the budget should be considered a *plan* – and only a *plan* – for spending borough money. Its preparation requires the need to identify the purposes for spending this money, the amounts to be spent and the revenues necessary to support such expenditures. More simply stated, President Federici said that money is allocated to programs or activities such as police, streets and highways, parks and recreation and other similar categories.

Municipal working budgets often break down each program area, or "account," into line items such as salaries and wages, materials and supplies, insurance, postage, and so on. By reviewing these program budgets, officials are able to compare and judge the reasonableness of expenditures for each function.

In spite of these efforts, and under certain circumstances, said Mr. Federici, even the most carefully prepared budget may need to be later changed, such as:

1. When an emergency situation arises which can create needs not apparent or anticipated during the budget process; or
2. Realized revenues are much more, or less, than expected; or
3. An opportunity to obtain favorable loan or grant funds forces a shift in the priority of projects from one year to another.

President Federici also mentioned that the preparation of the annual budget is, per the *Oakmont Borough Code*, the *delegated responsibility of the Manager*. In addition to this responsibility, other pertinent powers and duties of the Manager include:

1. To supervise and be responsible for the activities of all municipal departments;
2. To fix wages and salaries of all personnel under his/her supervision, within a range previously determined by Council;
3. To be responsible for the administration of the budget after its adoption by Council; and
4. To develop long-range fiscal plans for the municipality.

President Federici went on to say that this year's budget process actually began in August, when the Interim Manager initially prepared the 2009 Budget Calendar and Timeline for Council. In early September, the Manager scheduled meetings with all Borough department heads, agencies and boards, and obtained from them their identified projects, equipment and deferred maintenance needs and deficiencies, and respective estimate of 2009 revenues and expenditures.

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Thereafter, the Interim Manager proceeded with the initial preparation of the 2009 Budget, including the review of expenditures and revenues from past years as an aid to projecting estimates for 2009.

In parallel with these tasks, noted Mr. Federici, the 2008 Budget's *Chart of Accounts* listings were also reviewed and in several instances, and on the recommendation of the Interim Manager, revised and clarified.

In late October, the Interim Manager presented the first formal budget draft to Council, and thereafter scheduled the first of four budget workshops, together with a separate "budget process discussion" held during the November 10, 2008 Regular Business Meeting. President Federici emphasized that all of these budget meetings were publicly advertised, open to the public, and held in Council Chambers. All of the budget meetings involved the active participation of Council, the Interim Manager and Treasurer, Fred Favo. As a result of these meetings, several budget suggestions, clarifications, corrections, additions and/or deletions were subsequently made and addressed.

From September to where we are currently, this entire process – and the product deliverable, the budget plan – has been encouraged by the Interim Manager, and regarded by Council as a *continuous exchange of information* which Council determined, in November, was sufficiently developed for the public's review and inspection.

President Federici repeated that, as required by law, public notice was given on November 27, 2008 that the proposed budget would be available, for the mandatory 10-day public inspection period, at the Borough Building and the Library.

At the same time and throughout the public inspection period, Council, other Borough officials and department heads – could continue – and in several instances have continued – to offer further budget suggestions and recommendations.

These further budget suggestions and recommendations have been shared with and considered by the Manager, and revised final draft budget materials have also been generated and transmitted to all Council members . . . which brings us to this evening's December business meeting.

The 2009 Borough Budget, in its final draft form, is comprised of 11 separate *funds*, over 100 combined revenue and expenditure *accounts*, and over 600 individual revenue and expenditure *line items*.

Council Member Ride thanked all for their comments and patience during budget preparation.

Ms. Ride then offered a motion to adopt Ordinance O28-2008, adopting the final draft of the 2008 budget, as presented by the Interim Borough Manager, and setting the tax millage rate at 4.50 mils.

Dr. Calabrese seconded the motion.

Ms. Ride read the ordinance in its entirety and then President Federici opened up the floor for discussion.

Council Member Kennedy said he had never been present at any meeting where the substantial salary increases for the Interim Borough Manager and the Library Director had been discussed. He added that he was opposed to

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any millage increase in light of the present economic situation across the country.

He said he thought Mr. Mator "should be out more," and that the Borough Treasurer had to redirect Mr. Mator on the budget due to Mr. Mator's lack of experience with the budget. He also said that he had never gotten to discuss recreation needs with the Interim Borough Manager, which he felt needed further discussion.

Mr. Taliaferro objected to Mr. Kennedy's comments regarding the Library Director's proposed salary increase. He pointed out that Council had agreed when Library Director Shannon Dunn was hired that her salary would increase commensurately, once she had received her Masters Degree. Mr. Taliaferro also pointed out that Mr. Kennedy had been present at those discussions.

Dr. Calabrese also remarked that the Borough paid nothing for Ms. Dunn's post-graduate studies which were, in fact, paid for by an Allegheny County Library Association (ACLA) grant. She characterized Ms. Dunn as a "talented and capable individual" and said, "We want her to remain."

Dr. Calabrese went on to explain that there was money in the budget for a raise, but that it was Council's prerogative as to the percentage of salary increase for any non-union employee.

Regarding Mr. Kennedy's objection to the amount stipulated for the Interim Borough Manager's salary in 2009, President Federici noted that Council had not even reviewed Mr. Mator's performance yet. He commented that the salary figure in the budget was not necessarily the amount that will be finally approved as the Borough Manager's salary. He also noted that Mr. Mator's salary would be based upon a contractual agreement, too. Attorney Gallagher concurred that a Borough Manager's salary stipulations were "governed differently."

Council Member Zentgraf described the Borough Budget as a "working document," saying that the salary figures were just ranges. With regards to Mr. Kennedy's comments, Ms. Zentgraf said she had documents showing that he did, indeed, have input into the budget process. "You are a Council member and have been involved in all the budget meetings," said Ms. Zentgraf.

Noting that Council was now at a point of actually adopting the budget after months of working on it, Dr. Calabrese told Mr. Kennedy that she was always surprised when Mr. Kennedy said he didn't understand the budget, since he has been a Borough Council member for 26 years. Dr. Calabrese said she was comfortable with the information she had been given regarding the 2009 Budget.

Ms. Zentgraf read a statement saying that she felt the 2009 Budget had been prepared in a fiscally responsible manner and that she supported the Capital Reserve Fund, in part, because it enhanced our abilities for being competitive applicants for available matching grants. "We must be proactive," she said, and added that she felt that Borough infrastructure, Riverside Park and the Borough's physical facilities needed to be attended to now.

Dr. Calabrese said she supported all that Ms. Zentgraf had said. She read a *Post-Gazette* article written that day by reporter Allen Petrocelli who had visited Oakmont recently. She said Oakmont needed to maintain the qualities of sustainability and a proactive approach to the community issues mentioned

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in the Petrocelli article. Finally, she said that she completed supported the budget because she regarded Mr. Mator as a *professional* whom she trusted.

Ms. Zentgraf pointed out to those present that the Borough has raised taxes only three times since 2001, and that there been no increases at all for the last five years. She said that Borough taxes had only increased 1.16% over the last nine years, whereas the School District has raised taxes by 4.01% over the last eight years.

Ms. Ride said she found her fellow Council members' comments enlightening and inspiring, and said it was possible for all to have differing opinions yet still work together. She characterized the budget process as "an exercise in compromise" and "a laborious adventure."

She felt that the Interim Borough Manager had done a good job in preparing the budget and had put his own stamp on it by modifying former structures. She said it was hard to compare the 2009 Budget figures with previous years due to the changes made within the line item classifications, but that she still felt it was "a good draft budget."

Ms. Ride continued that she would have preferred to see less of a millage increase, especially in light of the increase in sewage service rates. She also noted that the monies spent on legal fees in the past should now be available in 2009 for other items. Nonetheless, Ms. Ride said she was able to vote for the 2009 Budget because of the funds now going into the Capital Reserve Fund, which she felt put the Borough in a better position to obtain matching funds from various grants.

In Mr. Mator's absence, President Federici then read a statement prepared by Interim Borough Manager Mator regarding the budget.

Mr. Favo said that he, too, would like to see improvements that would make things better, but that he couldn't add up the numbers so that they made any sense. He pointed out that there appeared to be only \$25,000 in the budget for paving, and that as of the December 4 balance statement, "\$1,158,000 is what we're actually sitting on by my calculations."

He asked, "Could someone help me because I can't figure it out." Mr. Favo said he was not comfortable voting on the budget as it stood.

Ms. Zentgraf pointed out that there was also \$50,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund for paving, in addition to the \$25,000 budgeted in the General Fund. With regard to the estimated \$1,158,000 "out there," Ms. Zentgraf said these were unspent monies being carried over from previous years. She also objected to Mr. Favo's use of the phrase "squirreling away" with regard to the monies in reserve.

Council Member Favo said he and Ms. Ride had presented ideas for saving money and reducing expenditures so that no tax increase would be necessary. He pointed to \$107,000 which he said was just "sitting in Liquid Fuels," and the additional personnel and equipment in the proposed budget, as unnecessary expenditures for 2009. Mr. Taliaferro then asked Mr. Favo to explain Liquid Fuels money, and a brief discussion ensued concerning the way Mr. Mator had structured the Liquid Fuels Fund and the way Mr. Favo and the Treasurer thought it should be structured.

Mr. Favo said, "I can't vote for anything I don't understand. We're sitting on a mountain of cash." President Federici said that he had taken the \$950,000 figure mentioned previously as not tagged for anything in particular, and had

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reconciled the amount with the budget figures to his own satisfaction. He said all but about \$100,000 was spoken for, either in appropriated funds from unfinished projects in previous years, or in reserve funds set aside for emergencies.

Mr. Favo said that the figure was no longer at \$950,000, but actually \$1,158,000, and that he doubted anyone on Council could reconcile this with the budget. He asked if the Police Capital Fund had been put in place. Ms. Ride said that it had. Mr. Favo said that someone also should make sure that the full Minimum Municipal Obligation amount for Borough pensions was also included in the budget. Mr. Favo then said that the figures for the bond payments were incorrect as of the last meeting, and asked if they had been corrected. Ms. Ride said it was hard to answer these questions without Mr. Mator present.

Borough Treasurer Frederick Favo said that the bond payment amounts listed in the Budget Ordinance were incorrect; specifically, the \$84,378 mentioned in Section 1(a) needed to be corrected. He suggested that the motion to pass the Budget should be changed so that there would be more leeway with regard to these figures.

He said that 71% of the 2003 General Obligation Bond amount should come from the Sewer Fund, and 29% from the General Fund. This was later corrected to the "General Obligation Bond, Series of 2004," and to "21% from the General Fund."

Treasurer Favo also said that the overall Liquid Fuels fund balance Mr. Mator had budgeted was greater than what the State permitted, and was therefore illegal. Ms. Ride thanked Treasurer Favo for all his work on this.

Council Member Favo said he thought the Budget Ordinance should only be passed on First Reading that evening. He said this had been the practice in the past, and would give residents time to review the Budget. "This is not very transparent," he said.

It was noted by Ms. Jensen that the Budget had been on file at the Borough Office for the last 10 days for anyone to review, and that this had been advertised, as required, in a local newspaper.

Attorney Shawn Gallagher said it was possible to amend the bond figures in the Budget Ordinance to show the percentages rather than the actual dollar amounts. President Federici then called for a motion to amend the ordinance to reflect this.

Ms. Ride offered a motion to amend the language in Section 1(a) of Ordinance No. O38-2008 so that, in lieu of the dollar amount of \$84,378.00, it be replaced with "21% of the General Obligation Bond, Series of 2004," instead.

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion.

Prior to casting his vote, Council Member Favo asked for confirmation that this vote was to amend the ordinance *only*, and was not a vote for adoption of the actual budget. He was assured that the vote on the floor pertained to amending the ordinance *only*.

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On a called vote, the votes were as follows:

President Federici	Yes	Ms. Ride	Yes
Dr. Calabrese	Yes	Mr. Taliaferro	Yes
Mr. Favò	Yes	Ms. Zentgraf	Yes
Mr. Kennedy	Yes		

The motion passed, 7 to 0.

Mr. Taliaferro said he wanted to make it clear that the original motion should be for First Reading only. There was a brief discussion on Ms. Ride's and Mr. Favò's reasons for wanting the ordinance passed on First Reading only.

President Federici then asked that Council return to the original motion, which had been offered by Ms. Ride and seconded by Dr. Calabrese, to adopt Ordinance No. O38-2008 on First Reading, as amended, and said he was prepared to call for a vote.

On a called vote, the votes were as follows:

President Federici	Yes	Ms. Ride	No
Dr. Calabrese	Yes	Mr. Taliaferro	No
Mr. Favò	No	Ms. Zentgraf	Yes
Mr. Kennedy	No		

The motion did not pass by a vote of 3 to 4.

Mr. Favò said he had voted against passage because, even though it had been said that infrastructure was important, **there was only a \$25,000 increase designated for paving in the Budget**, because he wanted to see the Cash Balance reconciled, and because he felt there had not been enough discussion on the budget.

Ms. Ride said she had voted "No" because she felt she needed more of an explanation about the handling of Liquid Fuels funds and assurances that the Capital Reserve Fund was sufficient.

President Federici declared Ordinance No. O38-2008 not passed on First Reading.

President Federici then designated December 22 for a Special Meeting, at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers, specifically to pass the 2009 Budget.

Ordinance No. O39-2008, Sewage Service Fee Increase – Ms. Ride offered a motion to adopt Ordinance No. O39-2008, setting the sewer service charge at \$6.40 per 1,000 gallons, with a minimum quarterly charge of \$38.40.

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion.

Ms. Ride read the Ordinance in its entirety.

On a called vote, the votes were as follows:

President Federici	Yes	Ms. Ride	Yes
Dr. Calabrese	Yes	Mr. Taliaferro	Yes
Mr. Favò	Yes	Ms. Zentgraf	Yes
Mr. Kennedy	Yes		

The motion passed, 7 to 0.

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President Federici declared the Ordinance enacted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 30, Page 41, as **Ordinance No. O39-2008**.

Resolution No. R40-2008, 2008 Balance Transfer – Ms. Ride offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. R40-2008 authorizing the Interim Borough Manager to transfer the remaining General Fund balance to the Operating Reserve Fund on December 31, 2008.

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion.

Mr. Favò then offered a motion to postpone passage of this resolution until there was more discussion on the 2009 Budget.

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion.

President Federici reminded Council that the motion on the floor to pass Resolution No. R40-2008 was still open for discussion.

Mr. Favò asked why this transfer was being made. Ms. Ride explained that this was a “zeroing out to begin a new year.”

On a called vote, the votes were as follows:

President Federici	Yes	Ms. Ride	Yes
Dr. Calabrese	Yes	Mr. Taliaferro	Yes
Mr. Favò	No	Ms. Zentgraf	Yes
Mr. Kennedy	No		

Mr. Favò said his “No” vote was because he was not clear why this was being done. He said there had been no prior presentation on this issue.

The motion passed, 5 to 2.

President Federici declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 30, Page 42, as **Resolution No. R40-2008**.

Resolution No. R41-2008, Sewage/Garbage Billing – Ms. Ride offered a motion to adopt Resolution No. R41-2008 authorizing the proper Borough Officials to enter into a one-year agreement with the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Oakmont to provide sewage and garbage billing services to the Borough of Oakmont.

Ms. Zentgraf seconded the motion.

Mr. Favò asked if the requested changes in wording in the agreement had been made. Ms. Ride said the Solicitor had reviewed the agreement and found all to be in order. She added that Borough residents will be permitted to make payments in two installments and that the bills will no longer be postcards, but sent out in envelopes. She said the Municipal Authority had discouraged increasing the penalty for late payments.

On a called vote, the votes were as follows:

President Federici	Yes	Ms. Ride	Yes
Dr. Calabrese	Yes	Mr. Taliaferro	Yes
Mr. Favò	No	Ms. Zentgraf	Yes
Mr. Kennedy	No		

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Mr. Favo explained his “No” vote by saying that the Municipal Authority’s bid for a contract with the Borough to handle sewage and garbage billing for the Borough was \$10,700 more than the other bid received.

The motion passed, 5 to 2.

President Federici declared the Resolution adopted. Recorded in Ordinance Book Volume 30, Page 43, as **Resolution No. R41-2008**.

Public Safety Committee

OVFD Report – At Mr. Taliaferro’s request, Oakmont Volunteer Fire Department Chief Bill Peoples was given the floor to report on OVFD activities from November 10, 2008 to present.

Chief Peoples said calls to the Fire Department have risen to 200 a month – calls to which they must respond, whether they are legitimate or not. He said he felt that there were great expectations on the Fire Department to always know the right thing to do.

Chief Peoples then explained why they requested that money be put into the 2009 Budget for a new boiler. The existing boiler was installed in 1958 and is very dangerous; a new boiler should save energy costs. The new windows that were installed in the Fire Hall last year have also been a great savings energy-wise, he said.

There are currently 17 members in the Fire Department. The average turnout for a call is nine members. President Federici commended the Department for their performance.

Council Member Taliaferro reminded Mr. Kennedy that he had a question he wanted to ask about money. Mr. Kennedy said, “I don’t have any questions.”

Chief Peoples then asked for a meeting between Council and OVFD members to discuss ways to recruit new members. With a charter for 25, there are currently eight openings on the force.

Mr. Kennedy said he remembered his question. He said he would like to know the amount the Fire Department collects from their annual solicitations. He said this question had been asked in the past, but no answer had been forthcoming.

Chief Peoples said that could also be discussed at the meeting with Council.

Mayor Fescemyer queried, “Why the Fire Department would be requesting budget monies for a new generator, heater, boiler and air conditioning unit, if they were sitting on so much money from their solicitations?” Mr. Favo said he agreed with the Mayor on this.

Ms. Zentgraf noted that the Fire Department had gone before a previous Council to request a new boiler and were turned down.

One-Sided Parking – Mr. Taliaferro offered a motion to authorize the Interim Borough Manager to advertise an ordinance creating a one-sided parking plan on Morris, Potomac and Third Streets.

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion.

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Mr. Favo asked if there was to be a 30-day trial period first. Mayor Fescemyer said, "Yes, immediately."

The motion passed, 7 to 0.

Planning and Economic Development Committee

Mr. Favo said he had no items to discuss that evening.

Engineering & Public Works Committee

Transfer to Sewer Phase II Construction Fund – Ms. Zentgraf offered a motion to transfer \$68,000 from the General Fund to the Sewer Phase II Fund to cover expenditures from the Plum Creek and Washington Avenue Pump Stations improvements.

Dr. Calabrese seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Tomko Change Order No. 2 – Ms. Zentgraf offered a motion to authorize payment of Change Order No. 2 associated with the Plum Creek and Washington Avenue Pump Stations improvements to W. G. Tomko, Inc., in the amount of \$67,863.21.

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Purchase of Street Department Vehicle – Ms. Zentgraf offered a motion to authorize the purchase of a fitted 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD Public Works truck, quoted at \$52,138.

Ms. Ride seconded the motion.

Council Member Zentgraf explained that this new truck was replacing an old Street Department truck that had many problems. The truck will be paid for with funds received from a 902 Recycling Grant from the state, so no Borough money was involved in the purchase.

Mr. Favo asked about the delivery date. Ms. Zentgraf said delivery was expected hopefully within three months.

The motion passed, 7 to 0.

2008-2009 Salt Costs – Ms. Zentgraf gave those present a brief explanation of the current price for road salt. She said the Borough had a three-year option to purchase salt from Cargill at the contracted price of approximately \$46.00 per ton through the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG). The only possible increase in costs over the next three years would come if gas prices went up.

Ms. Zentgraf also reported that said the Borough was looking into purchasing a new, larger salt shed that would be able to store an entire winter season's worth of salt at one time.

Mayor Fescemyer asked if the salt shed could be purchased through the state at a better price. Ms. Zentgraf said that was possible, and was being looked into at present.

Recreation, Cultural and Community Assets Committee

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Riverside Park Conditions – Mr. Kennedy said he was again requesting an additional “permanent” employee for the Park Crew. He said he also wanted a workable truck for the Crew, and not a “Gator” as proposed earlier.

Ms. Zentgraf said there was money in the 2009 Budget for a full-time Street Department employee that would work with both the Street and Park Crews. She explained the advantages of the Gator. She concluded by saying that the Park and Street Crews should be working together.

Human Resources, IT & Communications Committee

2009 Meeting Dates – Dr. Calabrese offered a motion to authorize the Interim Borough Manager to advertise the 2009 meeting dates and times, to include a Conditional Use Application Public Hearing on 12 January 2009.

Ms. Zentgraf seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

Website Proposal – Although not on the Agenda, Dr. Calabrese offered a motion to accept the proposal of ISM, Inc. to redesign the Borough’s website, at an approximate cost of \$1,500.

Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed 7 to 0.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS – President Federici referred those present to the list of public meetings itemized in the Agenda, noting that dates were correct as of publication of the Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Interim Borough Manager - Bertha Shearer, 39 Morris Street, challenged Mr. Kennedy’s statement that the Interim Borough Manager “should be out more.” She noted that she had seen Mr. Mator inspecting their street before he ordered the repairs done there.

Meising/Official Parking - Mrs. Shearer wanted to know why Tom Meising was allowed to park in the Borough’s “Official Parking” spaces when he was not a Borough official. She noted that she was not allowed to do that, even though she was elderly.

Tom Meising, 17 Potomac Street, stood up in the audience at that time and said, “I’m sorry. I promise not to do it again.” He also thanked Council for their diligence in preparing the 2009 Budget.

One-Sided Parking Designation – Mr. Meising said he had a handicapped tenant in one of his apartments who might have to cross the street in a wheelchair for a van pick-up, depending on which side of the street was designated for one-sided parking.

Mayor Fescemyer said, “If the van is only picking up and dropping off your tenant, what’s the problem?”

President Federici said Council would consider Mr. Meising’s comments. He added that the Police Department had recommended this move and that there would be a 30-day trial period before any final decisions were made. At present, there was no determination which side of the street would be restricted.

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Millage Increase – Rich Williams, 1324 Summit Drive, congratulated Council for their work on the 2009 Budget and said he was amazed at the lack of community attendance that evening. He said that Council members who voted for the tax increase could be in *Profiles in Courage*, and that the need for a tax increase at this time could be due to the reluctance of previous Councils to approve smaller, incremental tax hikes in the past. Mr. Williams said he would have voted for the tax increase, too.

He concluded by saying that Council members needed to compromise, as “the essence of democracy.” He felt that would be the only way to get the budget through.

Oakmont in Bloom – Matt Mehalik, 618 Fourth Street, as a representative of the community group *Oakmont in Bloom*, thanked Council for their support and for providing recycling containers along the Boulevard on Light-Up Night.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS – President Federici announced that Council would go into Executive Session immediately after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct that evening, Mr. Kennedy offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Taliaferro seconded the motion, which passed 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 PM.

Daniel Mator
Interim Borough Manager

Transcribed by: L. C. Jensen, Assistant Borough Secretary