

January 8, 2013

# HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 8, 2013

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Phyllis Metz, Frank Luek, Dave Szakelyhidi, Jim Hulings, Harold Herr, John Rice, Greg Such, and Mayor Cathy Rape.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Council Meeting  
January 8, 2013

JAMES E HULINGS  
SUSIE ALTEMUS  
Wade In  
Jim Miller

Frank Luek  
Sandy Geraciola  
Don R. M.

Phyllis Metz  
Cathy Rape  
Frank & Andrea Grammon  
John Rice  
Jack & Sharon Shunk

Greg Such  
Delia White

ALLEN BAYER



**CALL TO ORDER:**

Jim Hulings, Council President, called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**MINUTES:**

Frank Luek made a motion to accept the December 4, 2012 minutes. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported on Jim Hulings contacting him regarding the Rex Energy/DEP permit application for Marcellus drilling in Jackson Township and the concerns about contamination of the Connoquenessing. Matt drafted a letter to Chris Rearick, Jackson Township Manager, expressing our concerns and inquiring on the testing procedures they have in place; does DEP require testing of the water before, during and after drilling. Discussion, Dave Szakelyhidi stated it should be changed to say the Little Connoquenessing, or the Little Connoquenessing and the Connoquenessing, as the water source. Council is to review the draft letter, if no other changes need made, Matt will send to Chris Rearick.

Matt is working with Butler County and County 911 to change US Liner's address. It is still on-going; Matt may need to file a petition with the court to have the address changed.

Matt reported he drafted the Tax Ordinance for 2013, it has been advertised and is ready for passage. Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to approve the Tax Ordinance indicating no tax increase. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Matt sent correspondence to Ryan Sucarelli regarding the removal of trees along Routes. 19 and 228; there has been no response yet. Matt requested a copy of the arborist report and the name of the arborist.

Matt reported he drafted a Fire Ordinance dealing with annual fire inspections. PCI is authorized under the national fire code that we've adopted, PCI wants a separate ordinance. Matt put together a rough draft ordinance dealing with the annual inspection of commercial occupied building. Jim Hulings would like multi-unit residential dwellings added to that. Council is to review and discuss at a future meeting.

**GUEST:**

Jack Shanks – Jim Hulings, Council President, presented Jack Shanks with a card and plaque thanking Jack for his years of service and dedication to Historic Harmony Council.

**BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS**

Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to appoint Amy Brown as Borough Secretary. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion passed.



**BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS CONT':**

Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to appoint Amy Brown as Open Records Officer. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jim Hulings explained that the Open Records Officer determines whether certain records are allowed to be reviewed as part of the Sunshine Act.

Greg Such made a motion to appoint Amy Brown as Chief Administrative Officer for the Harmony Borough Retirement Plan. Frank Luek seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Greg Such made a motion to appoint Allen Bayer as the Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer. Dave Szakelyhidi seconded the motion. Motion passed. Jim Hulings stated that Allen is on Council for Zelienople. Mayor Cathy Rape asked what cost there would be. Jim Hulings reported that Allen is at \$20.00 per hour, and they budgeted \$8,000.00 when the money is gone, Allen's on vacation. Jim stated they left it open, it averages 30 hours per month.

**COG:**

Jim Hulings reported that we received two pieces of correspondence from COG, one was their annual budget and the other was for membership renewal, which is on the bills to be paid tonight.

**HARB:**

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that HARB has been down two people, Wade Ion recently resigned. Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to have Allen Bayer put on HARB to serve in the capacity as zoning officer and Sandy Ferrainola to serve in the capacity as realtor. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Water Authority:**

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that HBWA received and discussed a letter from EPA requesting the Authority to participate in a study of the affects Marcellus Shale has, especially bromines, in the water shed. Dave stated that the Authority decided against it because of the burden it would cause, Wade would have to go to Pittsburgh to take a class, there would be sampling; Dave stated the Water Authority may want to rethink their decision after reading Matt's letter to Jackson Township.

Matt stated there were questions on what the Act 13 fees/money could be used on. Waste water, water infrastructure, maintenance and improvements, emergency issues, environment programs, were a few; Matt stated there is a list, but are limited on what it can spend it on. As far as the testing, that is an Authority issue, the letter to Jackson Township is to express the Borough's concerns and to ask what measure they are going to undertake given the drilling is going to occur. John Rice stated that because of the water plant upgrade the sampling would be interrupted so the point was mute.

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the EMA was notified by the pipeline people about some of the things that may be going through the pipeline. Matt stated we may want to contact Jackson to see where they are putting the pipelines. The drilling/drilling site itself is short term, the biggest impact is the pipelines, the distribution pipes are



**Water Authority Cont':**

there for a very long time. John Ruch commented that there was a news article from Ohio where property owners sued a major gas company for underground storage of gas without the property owners' approval or knowledge.

Jim Hulings reported that the Water Authority raised the bidding threshold for 2013; they can buy more without going to bid.

**Planning Commission:**

Nothing to report

**Sewer Authority:**

Harold Herr was unable to attend tonight's meeting; Jim Hulings stated he reviewed WBCA minutes, standard business.

**Parks Board**

Susie Altemus reported that registrations for the Silvester 5K were up from 539 last year to 580; there were 518 runners this year, 476 runners in 2011. Ages ranged from 6 to 74. The invoices are not all in yet, estimating \$9,000.00 profit.

The Polar Plunge profits will be split between the Parks Board and Fire Departments.

The grant money has been all used, four recycling cans and a recycled bench have been purchased, and the materials to build two kiosks have been purchased.

Susie requested Harmony Borough use Wayne Seibel again for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July summer concert and the Silvester fireworks. Dave Szakelyhidi made the motion to use Wayne Seibel for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July summer concert and the Silvester contingent on approval of fees. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Frank Luek complimented Wade and Frank for the great job on cleaning up the boat launch.

**Parking/Signage and Events:**

Jim Hulings reported that we received two event requests.

The **Shamrock Shuffle** to be held March 16, 2013. The Zellenple-Harmony Area Chamber of Commerce is the sponsor for the event. They expect 800 visitors. They are requesting street closures for the race. Alcohol will be donated from Labatt's Brewery. Frank Luek made a motion to allow them to have the event here with the provision no alcohol is served on Borough property. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Jim Hulings added a stipulation that they apply for all permits, take all responsibility, and give Harmony Borough proof of insurance along with any appropriate licenses. Jim will send them a letter. John Rice recommended that they also pay for swift reach and fire police. Motion carried. Mayor Cathy Rape questioned if there would be street closings, stated last year's was a dangerous one with cars in the square and runners. Jim Hulings stated there will be a special safety meeting with them.



**Parking/Signage and Events Cont':**

The second event is the **NAUCC 10K** (North American Unicycling Convention and Championship) to be held July 21, 2013. The Butler Wobble is the sponsor for the event. They expect 300 visitors, 150-200 competitors. It's more of a traffic control situation. The course will start at the Center of Harmony, riding to Seneca Valley School and returning via the same route. The streets affected will be Mercer Street/Road, Evergreen Mill Road, Hartman Road and Seneca School Road. Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to allow them to have the event here. Greg Such seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jim Hulings reported that truck traffic is still a problem, this is part of what Matt is working on to change US Liner's address; there are three Ziegler Streets. Jackson Township sent a letter; they are not going to help us.

**BOROUGH STAFF REPORT:**

**Police Report:**

Submitted

Jim Hulings thanked the Police Chief for having a police car present during the Silvester.

**Office:**

Nothing to report

**Borough Supervisor:**

Wade reported that he picked up a new sign for US Liner, he talked to Chief Miller to have police support when the sign is installed on Rt. 68.

We received the new truck; Wade got a quote from Sign Innovation to label the sides with a magnet, one for each door at \$65.00 each. The quote needs signed if approved. Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to approve the magnetic signs. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jim Hulings signed the quote.

Weather permitting; a winter project for Wade and Frank is to paint the hallway in the borough building. A five gallon bucket of paint is about \$125.00. Dave Szakelyhidi will build boxes around the electric lines. Dave stated we budgeted \$1,500.00 for lighting. John Rice stated to hold off on the lights until taxes come in because of the unexpected replacement of the furnaces. Dave Szakelyhidi has scaffolding the guys can borrow. Phyllis Metz made a motion to approve the guys painting the hallway. Frank Luek seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jim Hulings reported that Frank and his crew cleaned up the old truck. Jim took some pictures and got the specs so it is ready to advertise. Chief Miller recommended putting it on Municibid, you can set a minimum, do not need to advertise. Minimum bid is \$18,500.00

Frank Luek thanked Susie (Altemus) and Greg (Such) for their great job on the Silvester and Polar Plunge.



**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Personal:**

Harold Herr is not here, there will be an executive session later.

**Finance:**

John Rice reported there are still bills out for this month, and treasures report has not yet been completed for December.

**Streets:**

John Rice reported the paving of streets has not yet been determined. Frank Grannon suggested Pittsburgh Street by Beaver Street be paved; and Cathy Rape suggested Edmund Street be paved.

**Public Safety:**

Mayor Cathy Rape reported she found an old letter from July 21, 1998 where Harmony Borough was cited for being in violation of putting fill on the flood way in Swampoodle Park, yet there is more dirt over by the barn and nothing is being done. Cathy also found a letter sent to Commissioners in November 2011, we never received a response back. Frank Luek stated Swampoodle Park was a flood way, the other area in question is a flood relief area. Cathy would like Harmony Borough to keep pursuing.

Mayor Rape also reported that crime in Harmony seems to be improving. We had 45 criminal calls in 2011 and 27 criminal calls in 2012. There were 34 traffic and non-traffic violations in 2011, 26 traffic and 8 non-traffic violations in 2012.

HBA (Harmony Business Association) grew in numbers, they reorganized this year. The Mayor encouraged people to check out the lower end of Harmony, the winery is doing well; he is hoping to get his license in the first quarter of the year. Josh has done a thousand pounds of electronic recycling already. The salon across the street is expanding, adding more chairs and is putting in a lounge/eating area for employees. The Farmers Market has done better since it moved to the square and hopefully it will be back again.

Wade commented on the parking during events, it would be helpful if there was somebody directing people where or how to park; keeping the spacing closer together to get more cars in the lots. Jim Hulings recommended having volunteers to monitor the parking.

**Facilities:**

Nothing to report

**Business Development:**

Jim Hulings reported that the Sustainable Community Survey is too involved, not completing it.



**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Personal:**

Committee Appointments were sent to everybody; had to reorganize with Jack resigning and Greg coming on board.

**Finances:**

John Rice made a motion to appoint Greg as a check signer. Frank Luek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Streets:**

Nothing to report

**Public Safety:**

Fire Inspections – Mayor Cathy Rape stated she does not want to see a burden on businesses; she can see egresses, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms; but lighted sign; she doesn't want to see a financial burden put on businesses. Solicitor Matt suggested having PCI come to a meeting to explain what they do and the process. Jim Hulings stated that PCI does not want to damage or make anyone go out of business; it's there to protect the public.

**Facilities:**

Dave Szakelyhidi reported the upstairs storage room is locked; some committees use the upstairs, it needs to have two egresses; the stairs and the fire escape. Dave would like to remove some of the trash upstairs, the old computers and typewriters, and an old piano. The Borough records have to stay, they are on shelves. Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to keep the door unlocked, and to get rid of the piano and the old electronics. John Ruch commented on the old records, several years ago volunteers went through them all and computerized them. He is not sure what the law says but if we don't keep them he believes we have to send them to the state archives. John Ruch also stated that if there are any records we are not going to keep, the Museum would love to have them. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. John Rice suggested removing the hard drives from the computers before recycling. Motion carried.

Dave Szakelyhidi would like the guys to seal any openings upstairs either with insulation or foam to keep the attic cold; in past years icicles were a problem.

**Business Development:**

Jim Hulings is going to visit every business in Harmony Borough to let them know we are here to help.

Jim Hulings reported the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting is election night, it is a busy time for council working on the next year's budget and several events going on; and to not have participation from some of the council people because they are also on the election board, limits them. Jim would like to change the meeting date to November 12<sup>th</sup>. Dave Szakelyhidi made the motion to change the November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting to November 12<sup>th</sup>. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jim will not be at the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, Greg Such will be acting President and John Rice will be acting Vice President.



January 8, 2013

Jim Hulings reported that he received letters from the Zelie Chamber of Commerce, American Profile Magazine, and the Butler County Humane Society. The Humane Society wants Harmony Borough to participate in if a stray dog or cat is picked up and taken to the Human Society, they would like Harmony Borough to pay \$45.00. Mayor Rape is to look into and handle this.

There is a volunteer sheet placed in the back of the council room for anybody interested in helping with events or projects.

Jim Hulings reported this is the time of year to apply for grants. He has four major grants that Harmony Borough can apply for, the deadlines are March 1<sup>st</sup> and February 21<sup>st</sup>. One grant is for Park Renovations, it pays .75c for every dollar spent. Greg Such will fill out the paperwork for that grant.

**BILLS PAYABLE:**

Frank Luek made a motion to pay this month's bills as presented. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

John Ruch stated the American Profile Magazine mentioned the Silvester on their calendar; the American Profile is a supplement in news papers in eleven or twelve North Eastern States, it is nice exposure for the Borough. There was an article in the Butler Eagle on January 7<sup>th</sup> scolding Butler's New Year's eves efforts as not being sufficient and used Harmony and Mars as examples as why Butler can't be that good. Jim Hulings stated the Cranberry Eagle also gave us a real nice write up. Greg Such asked if anyone was saving the news paper clips, stated we should start a scrapbook to be used next year. John Ruch also stated this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Historic Harmony's founding. The Harmony Fest will be February 16<sup>th</sup>, there is a new book Civil War in PA in Pictures (not exact title), one, two or all three authors will be speaking at the Harmony Fest and will probably do a book signing.

Jim Hulings called an executive session at 8:30pm; out of executive session at 9:05pm.

Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to advertise the truck in the paper, web, or any other means to make the sale. Solicitor Matt will make an ad for the paper. Phyllis Metz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**ADJOURN:**

9:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown  
Secretary



**Harmony Borough**  
**CORRESPONDANCE LIST**  
 December 2012

<b>FROM</b>	<b>SUBJECT MATTER</b>	<b>Date Rec'd.</b>
Rex Energy	New Gas Well drilling in Jackson Township	?
Council of Governments	Financial Statements	Dec. 11
Council of Governments	Renewal of dues	?
Western Butler County Authority	Meeting Minutes for November 8, 2012	?
Pennsylvania Municipal Authority Association	Bidding threshold for 2013	
Seibel Pyrotechnics	Proof of Insurance, Permits, maps etc. for Silvester Celebration Fireworks	?
Jackson Township	Response to inquiry concerning truck traffic	?
Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs	Nomination of officers	?
Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs	Training available	?
US Census Bureau	BAS Annual response (Borough boundaries)	?
Tom McCosby PCI	Need to enact a Fire Inspection Ordinance	Dec 27
Zelienople Harmony Chamber Of Commerce	Newsletter	?
Butler County Human Society	2013 Municipal Surrender Contract (due Jan 15)	?
Sheryl Kelly	Christmas Tree Pick-up e-mail (missed cut-off)	?
American Profile	Newsletter	?
Bureau for Historical Keystone Preservation	Historical Grants.	?